Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
Kahle/Austin Foundation

https://archive.org/details/mellorinblackbur0000tcou_z4e5

THIS BOOK SHOULD BE RETURNED ON OR BEFORE THE LATEST DATE SHOWN TO THE LIBRARY FROM WHICH IT WAS BORROWED

LOCAL STUDIES RESERVE STOCK
LANCASHIRE RECORD OFFICE
DOW LANE, PRESTON PR1 2RE

4/S 2155

STR

- 5 MAY 2000

O.I./P - 3

10 NOV 2000

SUB. TO RECALL

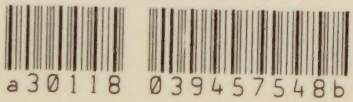
AUTHOR
Counsell, T

CLASS
E02

TITLE

Lancashire
County
Council

THE LANCASHIRE LIBRARY.
Library Headquarters,
143, Corporation St.,
PRESTON PR1 2TB.


a30118 039457548b

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MELLOR, 1929.

MELLOR

IN BLACKBURNSHIRE

A SHORT HISTORY

By

T. COUNSELL, A.C.P.

BLACKBURN:

GEO. TOULMIN & SONS, LIMITED,

"THE TIMES" PRINTING WORKS.

1929

03945754

PREFACE.

The following outline of the topography and history of Mellor, in Blackburnshire, has been prepared in connection with the Centenary Celebrations of St. Mary's Church, Mellor, 1929, at the request of the writer's cousin, Mr. Henry Whittaker, Vicar's Warden. It is based upon notes and memoranda for a larger work on the subject, which it was intended to publish in a few years' time.

The writer desires to express his thanks to the Rev. F. G. Harris, B.A., Vicar of Mellor, for kindly placing at his disposal old church records and notes made by the late Vicar, the Rev. G. R. G. Pughe; to Mr. H. Collison, Schoolmaster, and People's Warden, for an account of the Recreative and Social activities of the members of St. Mary's Church and Sunday School; to those who kindly made themselves responsible for obtaining and describing the photographs,—including Mrs. Richard Collinson (daughter of the late Mr. James Walton, a former Mellor schoolmaster), who also supplied certain information concerning the Day School, and Mrs. J. A. Sowerbutts, of Wellington Street, St. John's, Blackburn, who likewise furnished certain material relating to some of the church workers of the last generation or two; and to Mr. Thomas Counsell Whittaker and Mr. Edward Alston Counsell (brother of the writer), for permission to peruse the old deeds (particularly those of the Stuart period) relating to farms in, and on the borders of the parish of Mellor.

T. Counsell.

Ingledene, Salesbury,
September 25, 1929.

CONTENTS.

		PAGE
CHAPTER 1.	GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY OF MELLOR.	7
CHAPTER 2.	HISTORICAL OUTLINE—GENERAL.	16
CHAPTER 3.	HISTORICAL OUTLINE—RELIGIOUS.	33
CHAPTER 4.	ST. MARY'S CHURCH.	40
CHAPTER 5.	MELLOR DAY AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.	109
CHAPTER 6.	OLD MELLOR FAMILIES AND HOUSES.	121
CHAPTER 7.	MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.	149
CHAPTER 8.	CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.	158

MELLOR IN BLACKBURNSHIRE

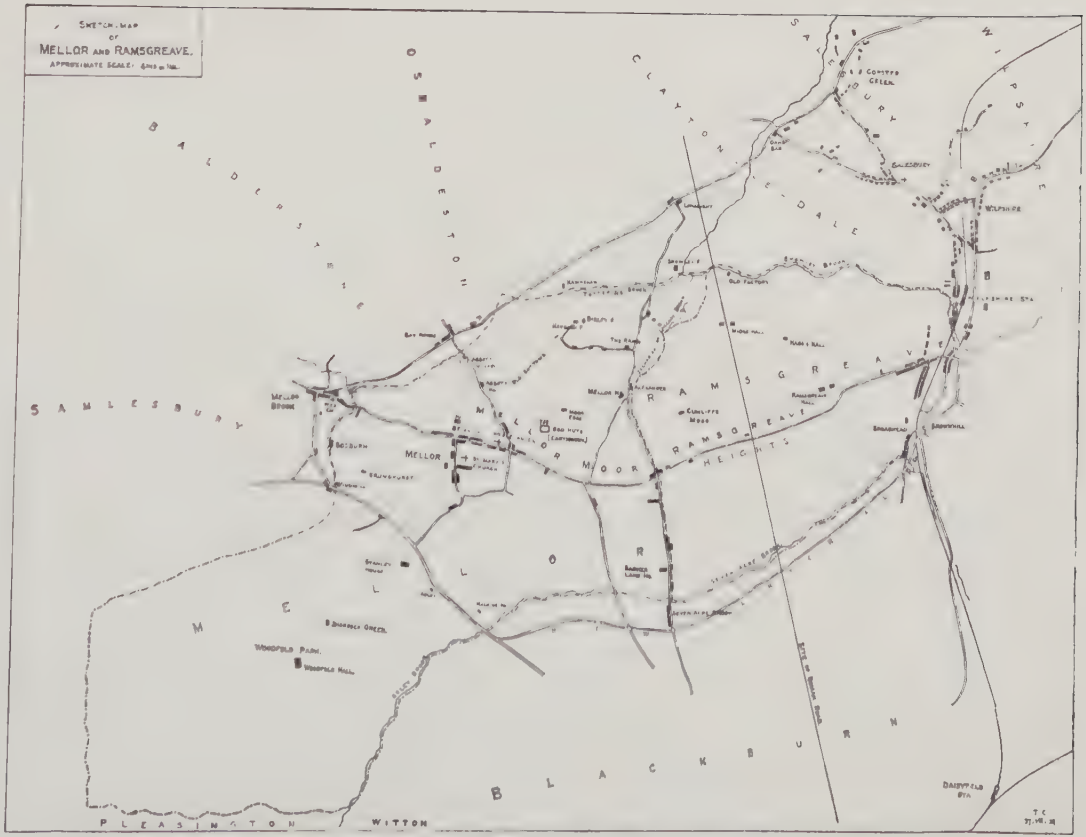
CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF MELLOR.

About three-and-a-half miles to the north-west of the market-place in Blackburn lies the village of Mellor. Like its namesake in the High Peak, Mellor in Blackburnshire rests on the brow of a rounded hill. Indeed, the name "Mellor" is believed by some to have been derived from the Celtic word "moel" (probably connected with the Latin "mollis"), meaning a smooth, rounded hill.

The ecclesiastical parish of Mellor, down to a few years ago, when a portion of Ramsgreave was transferred to Salesbury, and to St. Gabriel's, Blackburn, included the two townships of Mellor and Ramsgreave, and approximately coincided with one of the short ridges of the Pendle Range, the westerly portion of which is known as Mellor Moor, and the easterly portion, Ramsgreave Heights. The parish is bounded by the borough of Blackburn on the south-east, and the townships of Witton and Pleasington on the south, Samlesbury on the south-west and west, Balderstone and Osbaldeston on the north-west, Clayton-le-Dale on the north, and Wilpshire on the north-east. The latitude of the parish is approximately $53\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ N., and the longitude approximately $2\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ W., Mellor village being in Latitude $53^\circ 46'$ N., and Longitude $2^\circ 32'$ W.

The greatest length of the old parish of Mellor is about four miles, from Wilpshire Bottoms on the north-east to Woodfold Park on the south-west, and the greatest breadth is about one-and-a-half miles, from Showley Brook on the north-west to Seven Acre Brook on the



SKETCH MAP OF MELLOR AND RAMSGREAVE.

south-east. The area of the township of Mellor is 1743 acres, and of the township of Ramsgreave about 700 acres.

For many centuries, prior to about 1700, the name "Mellor" was always associated with "Eccleshill," as Mellor and Eccleshill, although separated by Blackburn and Lower Darwen, formed one township.

The Pennine Chain and the Pendle Chain.

A good orographical map of England (one contoured and coloured or shaded to indicate varying heights) shows that a broad ridge of moorlands, about one hundred and fifty miles in length, stretches from the Tyne Gap to the middle of Derbyshire. These uplands are known as the "Pennine Chain." There are many passes through the Pennine Chain, some of which are traversed by railways, but the most remarkable one is found about the middle of the range, and it is now known as the "Aire Gap" or the "Craven Gap." It is the easiest way through the Pennine Chain, and it was used by the Romans and Danes in early times, and in the construction of the Midland Railway and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in modern times. From the Aire Gap towards the south-west, and almost parallel with the Ribble, lies a double ridge of upland, culminating in Pendle Hill [1,831ft.]. This is the "Pendle Range" or "Pendle Chain," so named by the famous geologist, Professor Hull, about 1850. It now stretches from the Aire Gap to Hoghton Hill, although, as Professor Hull showed, ages ago it was very much longer and very much higher than it is to-day.

Geological Structure.

(*a*) *Ribblesdale.*

A microscopic study of the rocks of Ribblesdale reveals the fact that ages and ages ago, this region lay beneath the sea. Gradually, the remains of millions of the shells of tiny sea-animals built up the rocks we know

to-day as the Carboniferous or Mountain Limestone, resting on a Silurian floor.

Owing to the enormous deposits, the limestone seas gradually became shallower and shallower, and muddy sediment began to pour in from neighbouring lands, for the British Carboniferous Sea was not an open sea or ocean, but an almost land-locked sea, like the Mediterranean, or the Gulf of Mexico. The intermixture of clay-deposits with lime-deposits gave rise to the group of rocks covering such a large area in the North of England, and variously known as the Limestone Shale, the Shales-with-Limestone, the Yoredale Rocks, and the Pendleside Series. In addition to the shale and limestone, this group contains a well-known sandstone, the Lower Yoredale Grit. The black Bowland Shales of the Yoredale Series often led people formerly to bore for coal. The remains of these shafts prove that for the discovery of new coalfields a knowledge of the geological structure of a region, and of the former range of each coal-seam is better than much so-called practical knowledge.

The Limestone and Yoredale periods were followed by a period of great earth-movements, of both upheaval and depression. It was during these ages that the Millstone Grits were slowly deposited. At times the sea-bed became land, and a rank vegetation flourished, which has given us the thin coal-seams known by miners as the "Farewell Rock."

In the next great geological period, the Coal Measures Period, land and sea conditions alternated, and forests of giant tree-ferns and other plants flourished and decayed, forming in after times the various "mines" or "seams" of the coalfields.

At the close of the Carboniferous Period, great shrinking of the earth's crust occurred in our region. A miniature mountain chain was formed, having a S.W.-N.E. direction, and as portions of this chain still remain, they form some of the oldest ridges not only in Britain, but in the world, far older than the Pennines, the Alps, or the Himalayas. These denuded ridges form the

Pendle Chain, to which reference has already been made. The Pendle Chain may still be traced from Parbold Hill, near Wigan, to Blubberhouse Moor, in the Forest of Knaresboro'. The principal ridges of this Post-Carboniferous mountain system may be traced now along the four fairly continuous anticlines or upfolds, the Clitheroe, the Slaidburn, the Sykes, and the Rossendale.

It must not be supposed that at the end of the Carboniferous period the whole series was complete over Ribbleland, for whenever land conditions prevailed, the agents of denudation were at work, especially along the upfolds where the strata had been weakened most by the crumpling. A study of the geological maps of the region shows that the anticlines are generally to be found along the valleys of to-day, although there is an exception at Mellor, while the synclines or downfolds are found on the summits of the hills, so great has been the amount of material removed into the sea by denudation.

The Carboniferous Period was followed by the Permian. This period is not represented at Mellor, but red Permian sandstone may be seen near Clitheroe and at Roach Bridge, Samlesbury.

At the close of this age, another great mountain-building period occurred, during which the Pennine Moorlands were raised at right angles to the Pendle Chain.

Running approximately through Leyland, Bezza, and Goosnargh, is a great "fault" or break in the earth's crust. The Carboniferous rocks of our district have been thrown down to a great depth beneath the West Lancashire Plain, and covered by later, water-laid deposits, the New Red Sandstone.

The later Secondary and Tertiary deposits are entirely absent from the Ribble area, but the Quaternary deposits are well represented. Blown sand dunes are found near the Ribble Estuary, and silt or alluvium is found near the Ribble and its tributaries, while most of Ribblesdale is overlaid by a thick layer of Boulder Clay,

deposited by the melting glaciers of the last great Ice Age.

(*b*) *Mellor.*

In regions, like much of Russia, where there has been comparatively little disturbance of the rocks, the geological student is at a great disadvantage, for he may have to travel long distances to gain an acquaintance with more than one or two formations, or even land-forms. Britain, however, is a sort of pocket-edition of the world's geology, and perhaps nowhere is this better illustrated than in Ribblesdale.

In walking from Blackburn market-place by Four Lane Ends, Seven Acre Brook, Top of the Heights, Midge Hall, to The Old Factory (half-a-mile to the east of Showley), a man will cross no fewer than three important geological formations, viz., Coal Measures, Millstone Grit, and Yoredales.

Blackburn, his starting-place, lies on the great South Lancashire Coalfield. Between Revidge and Midge Hall, he will traverse the upturned edges of the whole Millstone Series, in order, from the youngest to the oldest member, viz., Rough Rock (Revidge = rough edge), Haslingden Flags, Third Rock, Kinder Scout Grit, and Pendle (or "Upper Yoredale") Grit, with their interbedded shales.

On the summit of Mellor Moor is a thin layer of peaty soil, and most of the parish is covered with boulder clay. Beneath the soil and boulder clay lie the millstone grits and the Yoredales.

The Clitheroe and Skipton anticline or upfold passes by Salesbury to the intrenchment on Mellor Moor, and then by Bosburn to the south-west. On each side of this upfold, the rocks dip down to the north-west or to the south-east, except where faults or dislocations occur. Along the Old Bottoms, on the northern flank of the Moor, runs a fairly continuous fault, but the down-throw is not sufficiently great to alter the series. Other well-marked faults, running approximately north and

south, through Brundhurst and Paris respectively, occur near the western and eastern borders of the parish.

Anthropo-Geography.

In what one might call the Educational Revolution of the last quarter-century, it has become the fashion to speak of the "New Geometry," the "New Psychology," the "New Geography," etc. One of the most characteristic features of the New Geography has been the rise of Anthropo-Geography or Human Geography, in which the chief emphasis throughout is laid on the study of the earth as the dwelling-place of man, that is, on environmental influence, or as it is usually (but not quite correctly) called, "Geographic Control."

Even in so small a portion of the earth's surface as the parish of Mellor, there is evidence of geographic control, both climatic and structural. The principal occupations of the people are to a very large extent controlled by geographic factors.

(*a*) *Dairying.*

The climatic and soil conditions favour dairy-farming rather than the growing of cereals, especially the more exacting wheat. Butter, cheese, and eggs are produced, but "milk-kitting" to Blackburn is more important still, and great care is now taken to ensure a plentiful, pure, and rich supply of milk.

(*b*) *Cotton Manufacturing.*

Proximity to the South Lancashire Coalfield, heavy rainfall, humid atmosphere, situation on the west or American side of Britain, in the hinterland of the Mersey Estuary, have all contributed to the rise of the cotton industry here.

It is interesting to note that many of the Flemish woollen weavers encouraged to settle in this country by Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III, and also of those who fled from the Romish persecutions in the Low Countries in the Reformation period, settled in Lanca-

shire. As the damp climate resembled their own, they kept their wooden shoes or sabots, which developed into the famous Lancashire clogs.

In later days, owing to the furious opposition of the jealous and powerful woollen manufacturers, severe laws were made to prevent, if possible, the manufacture of cotton fabrics, but in the end, right, of course, prevailed. A trace of this selfish attitude is apparently seen

MR. JOHN SMALLEY.
(1825—1881.)
Founder of the Elswick Cotton Mills.
Mellor.

in the way in which woollen materials, in contrast to cotton, linen, silk, etc., still usually monopolise the name "cloth."

With the coming of steam and modern machinery came also the Industrial Revolution of a hundred years ago. The centre of gravity of the population moved from "Metropolitan England" which looks upon London as "town" to "Industrial England" of the coalfields,—a newer England than even the New Eng-

land of North America, progressive, not dominated in thought by London, but with ideas of its own. The well-known Lancashire saying is not entirely without foundation in fact—

> "What Lancashire thinks to-day,
> England will say to-morrow."

During the Industrial Revolution, the struggling cotton industry passed from the domestic stage to the factory stage. At Mellor a mill was built last century [1878] by the late Mr. John Smalley, whose son, Mr. Henry Smalley, J.P., now provides work for a large proportion of the inhabitants.

(c) Quarrying.

This is another important industry in Mellor, and like the above, it is an instance of geographical control. As might be expected where the solid rocks come so near to the surface as along the Mellor anticline, quarries have been made. There is a small quarry at Haydock Fold and one at Higher Abbott, but the most important one is that of Abbott Quarry, owned and worked by Messrs. Peacock Bros., of "Quarry Bank."

The stone in all these quarries is Pendle or Upper Yoredale Grit. The whitish grit or sandstone of Abbott Quarry is remarkably hard and durable, and its weather-resisting qualities have earned for it a reputation even as far as the "Fylde Country," where it is now in great demand among builders in Blackpool and its neighbourhood.

CHAPTER 2.

HISTORICAL OUTLINE.—GENERAL.

"Inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers."—Job viii. 8.

Prehistoric Times.

The recorded history of these islands begins with the writings of the Greeks and Romans, but there is also a long period of unrecorded history,—the so-called "Prehistoric Period," brought to light by the excavations of archæologists.

It is customary to divide the Prehistoric Period into four ages,—the Palæolithic (Older Stone), Neolithic (Newer Stone), Bronze, and Early Iron ages,—named according to the material used for implements and ornaments.

The Palæolithic men, the earliest inhabitants, reached what is now Britain while the country still formed part of the Continent. They were a race of savages, some of whose implements of roughly-chipped stone may be seen in some of our museums. It is not yet certain that Palæolithic men came farther north than about the Trent, and they are believed either to have perished, or to have migrated to warmer lands at the coming of the last great Ice Age. They were probably of two or three "waves" or even races, known as the "River Drift," the "Cave," and (in some lands) the "Lake-Dwelling" men. Some authorities suppose that the Palæolithic men were of the same race as the Eskimos of North America.

After the Ice Age, when subsidence had produced the "Narrow Seas," separating Britain from the Continent, another race of men settled here,—the Neolithic. Although these men were small in stature, they were much cleverer than their predecessors. They must have been able to construct rafts, coracles, or canoes made of tree-trunks hollowed by scooping or by fire, in order to cross the sea.

Their implements were still of stone, but these implements showed much greater skill in the making, as they were often polished and grooved or pierced for handles. The Neolithic men raised oval mounds over their burial-places, known now as "long barrows." They had progressed a little beyond the purely gathering-and-hunting stage, which requires no settled abode, to the hunting-and-pastoral stage. They had flocks and herds and dogs, and made settlements on the hill-tops,—either small pit-dwellings or turf huts surrounded by mounds and ditches. "Maiden Castle," near Dorchester, is one of the best-known of these settlements, but it is possible that the Mellor earthwork or intrenchment, commonly called the "Roman Camp," but sometimes "Sod Huts," is of this remote period, although our archæologists and historians have not yet dated it earlier than the Roman Occupation.

NEOLITHIC IMPLEMENTS FOUND AT MELLOR,

Now in Blackburn Museum.

[i.] Flint Arrow-Head.

That Neolithic men dwelt on the summit or slopes of Mellor Moor is shown by the discovery of Neolithic implements there. In Blackburn Museum may be seen

a stone axe-hammer or "celt," and also a flint arrow-head found at Mellor about fifty years ago. Indeed, the Neolithic men may have been the real founders of Mellor! The Neolithic men were of the Iberian or Ivernian race, still represented comparatively purely by the Basques of the Pyrenees. They were afterwards conquered by a swarm of Celts, known as the Goidels or Gaels.

[ii.] AXE-HAMMER OR CELT.

These newcomers, unlike the earlier inhabitants, had discovered that certain stones, when heated, yielded molten metal, and that two of the metals, copper and tin, would mix and form the hard, useful alloy, bronze. With the advent of the Celts, therefore, the Stone Age passed into the Bronze Age. The Celts burned their dead, and over their ashes raised "round barrows." Like their Neolithic predecessors, they preferred to live on the hill-tops, and on the site of the Revidge tank, only about two miles to the south-east of Mellor, a Celtic cinerary urn was discovered some years ago, and it is now to be seen in Blackburn Museum.

Some centuries later, the Goidels, in turn, were conquered and driven to the west and north by another swarm of Celts, the Brythons or Britons, and later, the Gauls and Belgians, who were enjoying the more fertile parts of the south and east of this island when the masterful Cæsar cast his envious eye upon their land.

During the Celtic periods, the Bronze Age passed into the Early Iron Age, and the Prehistoric Period passed into the Historic Period. The remarkable stone circles of Avebury and Stonehenge, and also the Stones of Stennes in Orkney and the round towers of Ireland are believed to be of Celtic or Pre-Celtic origin.

The Roman Occupation [B.C. 55—A.D. 410].

The Greek historian, Herodotus, writing about 450 B.C., says that Phœnicians made voyages to the Cassiterides or Tin Islands, which many consider to have been the Scilly Isles, but others, some islands off Galicia, in north-west Spain.

The earliest certain reference to the British Isles is that of the Greek writer, Aristotle, who, about 400 B.C., speaks of "Albion." It is not known whether this word is of Celtic or Iberian origin, but it is thought to mean the "White Land." [Cf. "Alp," "Alban," "Albany," "Drumalban."]

About 330 B.C., the Greek Pytheas led an exploring expedition, visited Britain, and opened up a trade-route between Britain and Marseilles, and a flourishing British tin trade along this route is referred to by the Greek Posidonius, who visited Britain about 130 B.C.

Except for these stray references, the written history of Britain, however, begins with the landing of the Romans, in 55 B.C. The Roman Occupation lasted for about four centuries,—until about the year 410 A.D. The Romans were great builders of roads and towns, great organisers, and great law-makers, but their rule rested upon blood-and-iron, war, tyranny, oppression, and slavery, and so Imperial Rome had to go the way of "Nineveh and Tyre."

Traces of the Roman Occupation may still be seen in the remains of roads camps, walls, villas, coins, ornaments, pottery, altars, and inscribed stones; in place-names; and in the trees and plants introduced by the Romans, such as the elm, chestnut, poplar, rose, lily, pea, cabbage, flax.

The most permanent results of the Roman Occupation, however, have been the influence of the Roman

system of law, and the continued employment of many Latin words which have come down to us from what our philologists call the "First Latin Period."

The Mellor Camp.

On the highest point of Mellor Moor is a small intrenchment or earthwork, known as the "Roman Camp," or "Sod Huts." It is about 33 yards long, from east to west, and about 25 yards wide, from north to south. It is still surrounded by a fosse or ditch, and by a vallum or rampart or mound.

One authority dates this intrenchment as late as the 1745 Jacobite rising, but this could probably be disproved by private deeds and documents. It is generally believed to have been a Roman outpost or signalling station, as it would not only command a view of Bremetennacum (Ribchester), but also of a wide stretch of country,—much of it forest-clad,—Lower Ribblesdale, the Ribble Estuary, and the Fylde. In shape and construction it resembles a Roman camp (castra), fort (castrum), or castle (castellum). It is, however, much smaller than most Roman stations, and it lies about a mile to the west of the Mancunium-Bremetennacum Road, without any discovered vicinal way connecting it with that road.

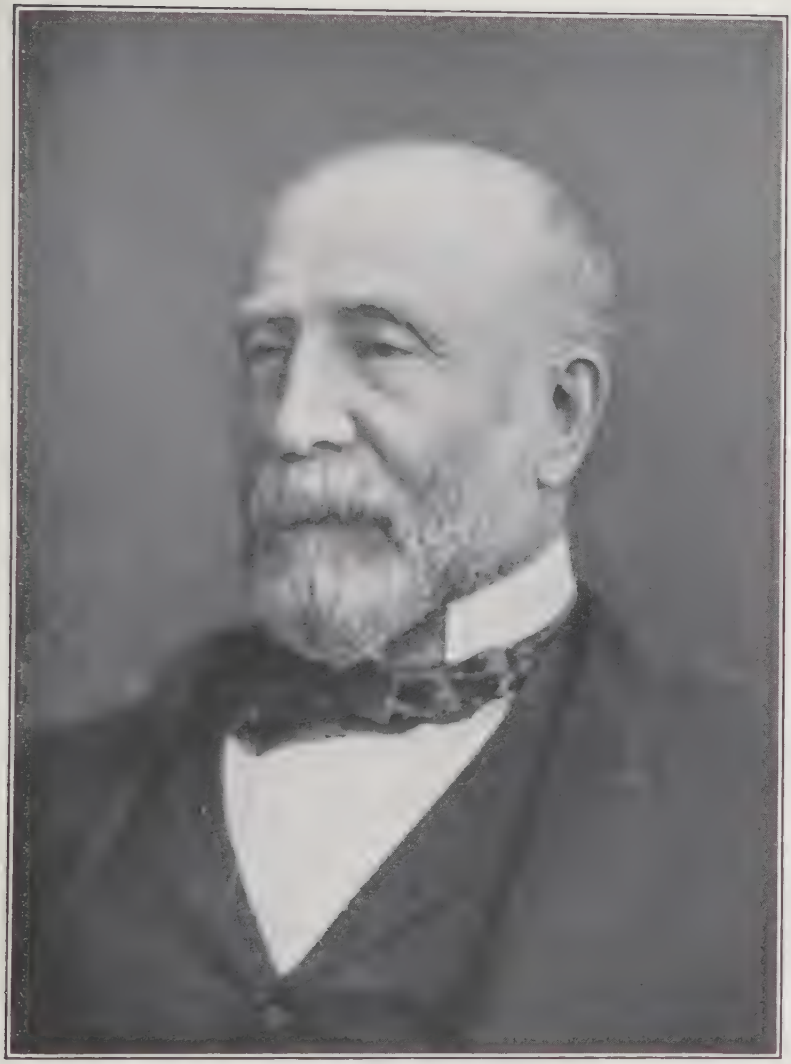
There is something to be said for a pre-Roman origin of "Sod Huts"—Celtic, or even Neolithic.

The Roman Road.

A Roman road leading from Mancunium [Manchester] to Bremetennacum [Ribchester] and on to the Wall of Hadrian crossed what is now Ramsgreave. It passed by the site of Blackburn Station, Four Lane Ends Council School, Higher Waves, the water-wheel pump on the Top of Ramsgreave, between the two Midge Halls, and on by Harwood Fold and Stubby Head to the Ribble.

THE MIDDLE AGES.

It is customary to speak of the thousand years from the Fall of the Western Roman Empire [476] to the



DANIEL THWAITES, ESQ., M.P., D.L.,

(1817—1888),

Lord of the Manor of Mellor.

Amongst his many benefactions to Mellor, Mr. Thwaites gave the land for the Day and Sunday Schools and £500 towards the Buildings. He also gave the first Peal of Bells.

Fall of the Eastern Roman Empire [1453] as the "Middle Ages."

The Middle Ages, in Britain, were characterised by the arrival of hordes of barbarians from over the German Ocean, who slowly consolidated to form the English nation; by the Celtic and Romanist missions, which, it is to be feared, were much more ecclesiastical than Christian; by the establishment of the Norman despotism and a modified monarchial feudalism; by the beginnings of Parliament, the decay of feudalism, and the introduction of printing, paving the way for the Renaissance or "Awakening of Europe."

Mellor in the Middle Ages.

Despite the fact that Mellor appears to have had so early an origin, little is known of it before the twelfth century. Its position on the summit of a hill is a most unusual one for the Anglo-Saxons, for Saxon "tuns" and "vills" were almost invariably in the lowlands, but Celtic and prehistoric man had a decided preference for the hills, unlike the English farmer of later days who said, "Praise the hills, but keep off them." Again, the name "Mellor," as has already been pointed out, is Celtic, suggesting a pre-Roman origin, while most of our town and village names are Saxon or English, ending in ton (or tun), ley (lea, or leigh), ham, ford, shaw, hurst, rod (or royd), etc.

In their old home in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Germany, the English tribes had dwelt in village-communities, the men having equal rights and managing their affairs by open-air meetings on the village green—the "Folk-Moots." When the English settled in this country they built tuns and vills in the lowlands, at first avoiding the decaying Roman camps with a superstitious dread, but afterwards often building on or near the sites of these camps, for example, Ribelcastre on the site of Bremetennacum.

The usual plan was to build huts of wood and turf round a triangular space or village green. Behind the huts were small grass patches or closes, and beyond these the wooden fence or palisade enclosing the tun or

vill. Outside the fence was a large cornfield often divided into three portions or "fields" for rotation of crops. This was the "Three Field System" of agriculture. These fields were divided into narrow strips often two (ploughman's) poles in width and a furrow-long (furlong) in length, separated not by hedges, but by narrow uncultivated strips known as "balks." Barbarous and cruel as they were, these people had some idea of justice, and the strips, of varying degrees of fertility, were shared by the men in turn. Beyond the arable land lay the common pasture, waste-grounds, moors, fens, woodlands, etc.

In course of time, ten tuns or vills united to form a "tything," and ten tythings joined together to form a "hundred." The hundreds became very important administrative units, and are still referred to. They vary much in size, probably according to their original density of population. They are much older than the "Shares," or "Shires," or counties, although in the North of England the hundreds (or "wapentakes") were often called "shires," *e.g.*, Blackburnshire, Salfordshire, Leylandshire.

The more general affairs of the hundreds were dealt with by the "Hundred Moots," which might be compared to the Rural District Councils of to-day.

Slowly a kind of caste system grew up, and each tun or vill came to have its overlord, who might be a little king, or noble, or a powerful ecclesiastic. Within the tun or vill, the power of the leading man or "franklin" gradually increased. From being a sort of elder brother, "the first among equals," he became a kind of manorial lord, although the word "manor" had not yet been introduced. The poorer or more unfortunate cultivators often gave up their rights as freeholders in exchange for some immediate help or advantage, and so there came to be freeholders, churls, or villeins, and serfs, thralls, or slaves. As trade and commerce developed, the "thane" or "thegn" came into prominence. In later Saxon times, on or near the village green were to be seen the village cross, the church, and also the stocks, the pillory, and the whipping-post.

Under the Normans, a Saxon tun or vill with its surrounding lands,—the whole forming a township,—came to be known as a "manor." In some cases the township might contain more than one manor. The manors varied greatly in size from about 5,000 acres down to about 500 acres. The lord of the manor was often considered a person of great importance, especially if he held several manors forming an "honor" or "honour." He often ruled almost like a little king, having his own courts,—the Court Leet for the trial of minor criminal offences, and the Court Baron to deal with civil offences. The manorial lord often had his own jail, and sometimes even his own gallows!

As Mellor was not a typical Saxon tun or vill, it is perhaps not surprising to find that the township did not become exactly one Norman manor. At the Conquest, William of Normandy gave Christ's Croft (between the Ribble and the Mersey) and Amounderness (between the Ribble and the Lune) to one of his followers, Roger de Poitou, who, however, was afterwards deprived of his estates, for a time, for having rebelled. In early Plantagenet times, most of what is now Lancashire was held by the powerful family of De Lacy, of Lancaster, Clitheroe, Pontefract, and afterwards of Lincoln. For a time the Banastres of Walton-le-Dale held Mellor from the De Lacys. Later owners, or partial owners, of the manor were the Marseys, the Ferrers ["Lords between Ribble and Mersey"], the Honfords of Cheshire, the Mellers, and the Bosedens of Boseden or Bosburn (near the "Windmill") an earlier manor-house. Before 1300, the manor passed from Henry de Boseden to John D'Eyvas, the representative of the Samlesbury family, whose descendants, the Southworths, held it for many generations.

Mr. Abram, the Blackburn historian, says, "The Southworths of Samlesbury long time held the so-called manor of Mellor by socage tenure of the crown; and at the death of Sir John Southworth, in 1595, his Mellor estate consisted of 30 messuages, as many gardens and orchards, and 300 acres of land, 100 acres meadow, 200 acres pasture, 200 acres moor and moss, 100 acres

MRS. R. A. YERBURGH,

Lady of the Manor of Mellor.
Member of the Church Council and generous benefactress.

Amongst her many gifts to Mellor, Mrs. Yerburgh, in the year 1897, presented the organ to the Church, and in the year 1924 renovated it at a cost of £500. She also gave an additional acre of land for the Churchyard some years ago. In the year 1897 she placed the beautiful carved oak Screen in the Church to the memory of her father, the late Mr. Daniel Thwaites.

gorse and heath, 40 acres of wood, and 50s. of rents; total acreage (besides gardens and orchards), 940 acres. The returned yearly value of the estate was £50, and the service payment to the crown was 16d. per annum."

TUDOR AND STUART TIMES [1485—1714].

The beginning of the Tudor period roughly coincided with the close of the Middle Ages. The outstanding events of the Tudor period were the Renaissance, the Protestant Emancipation or Reformation, and the establishment of the Tudor despotism,—to be overthrown in the following century.

The Stuart period in Britain was the period of the long struggle between the King and Parliament, ending in a triumph for Parliament, which broke through the hereditary principle of government, established a parliamentary monarchy, changed the succession, and offered the crown to the German Guelfs or Guelphs, who had now become the champions of Protestantism, although in former centuries they had been champions of Papalism, while their enemies, the Ghibellines, had been staunch supporters of the Empire in its struggles against the Papacy.

Mellor.

During the Tudor period, the Southworths continued to hold the manor in Mellor (which did not include Ramsgreave), but in the Stuart period, according to the "Victoria County History," John Southworth and two of his cousins joined in conveying the manor to trustees for sale, in 1664, but the immediate purchaser is not known. It may have been "Thomas Stanley de Melore, gent." Shortly afterwards, however, the manor was held by the Yates family, to whom reference is made in The Rann deeds. At this period the manor-house was Stanley House, a fine old manor-house of the Elizabethan style, but now partly in ruins. Stanley House lies on rising ground near the modern road from Blackburn to Preston.

Modern Times [1714—1929].

The great events of this period have been the gradual establishment of the Democracy; the Industrial Revolution; the great Evangelical revivals of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the abolition of duelling, slavery, and child-labour; greater provision for the poor and the sick; improved education; scientific research, discovery, and invention; and the establishment of the League of Nations,—and the coming of disarmament, internationalism, and peace.

Mellor.

In the old deeds and documents relating to Mellor and its neighbourhood reference is made to the enclosing of "waste grounds." As far back as the Tudor period, the policy of enclosing land may be traced. Many of the old methods of farming were passing away, and Enclosure Acts were passed allowing cultivators to fence round their strips of land. This was continued in Stuart and early Guelph times, and led, among other things, to the growth of a large number of yeomen, or men farming their own land.

But, in addition, the larger owners often enclosed portions of the common lands, without any legal rights whatever, of which we are reminded by the old rhyme—

"Great is the sin of man or woman,
Who steals the common from the goose?"
But who for him shall make excuse,
Who steals the goose from off the common.

About 1780, the Mellor manor again changed hands, passing from the family of Yates to that of Higginbotham, also of Stanley House. Soon afterwards, the manor and several estates were purchased by Mr. Henry Sudell, who built the present manor-house, "Woodfold Hall," and made Woodfold Park, with its four-mile wall. The manorial "court leet" was held down to the year 1827.

In 1831, the manor was again sold, this time to Mr. John Fowden Hindle, and some years later, passed by marriage to Mr. George Frederick Gregory.

About 1878, it was purchased by Mr. Daniel Thwaites, upon whose death in 1888, it descended to his only daughter, afterwards Mrs. R. A. Yerburgh, the present Lady of the Manor.

WOODFOLD PARK.

Sudell, of Woodfold Park.

The Sudells of Woodfold (according to Abram) lived at Ousebooth, Blackburn, as far back as 1548, in which year there is a reference to John Sudley, a tenant of chantry lands at Ousebooth. John Sudell of Ousebooth died in 1622, and another John about 1670. The pedigree of the Woodfold Sudells may be traced without break from "Henry Sudell, townsman of Blackburn," who died in 1680.

The descent is: Henry,—son William,—son John, "Yeoman" and "Chapman,"—son Henry,—son Henry,—son Henry, of Woodfold.

Several members of the family were governors of Blackburn Grammar School. The last-named Henry Sudell was a merchant and landowner. His Blackburn residence was in Church Street. He purchased large estates in Mellor and Samlesbury, about 1709, and afterwards enclosed Woodfold Park, and built Woodfold Hall,—a fine mansion with a classic portico. About 1820, he was said to be a millionaire, but owing to great financial losses, in 1827, he and his family left Woodfold, which was afterwards purchased by Mr. John Fowden Hindle [1831].

Mr. Henry Sudell, whose name is commemorated by "Sudell Cross," died at Ashley House, near Bath, in 1856, at the advanced age of 92, and in the following year, his son Thomas, the last surviving male representative of the family, died, at Ashley House, Chippenham.

Thwaites, of Woodfold Park.

The late DANIEL THWAITES, ESQ., M.P. [1817-1888], Lord of the Manor of Mellor, son of Mr. Daniel Thwaites, married Miss Eliza Gregory, whose brother, Mr.

George Frederick Gregory, married, in 1839, Mary Jane, daughter of Mr. William Fowden Hindle. William Fowden Hindle had succeeded his brother, John Fowden Hindle, Lord of the Manor of Mellor from 1831 to 1849. John and William were sons of John Fowden Hindle, who in 1831, a few months before his death, purchased Woodfold Park.

Mr. Daniel Thwaites gave the land for Mellor Day and Sunday School, and £500 towards the cost of the School. He also gave the first peal of bells for Mellor Church.

Mrs. R. A. Yerburgh, only daughter of the late Daniel Thwaites, Esq., M.P., Lady of the Manor since 1888, is a member of St. Mary's Church Council, and a generous benefactress of the Church. In 1897, she presented a new organ and new choir-stalls, while the late Mrs. Daniel Thwaites presented the beautiful oak choir-screen and pulpit. In 1924, Mrs. Yerburgh renovated the organ at a cost of £500. Mrs. Yerburgh also gave an acre of land for the extension of the Churchyard, some years ago.

The late R. A. Yerburgh, Esq., M.P. for Chester for over twenty-five years, read the lessons at Morning Prayer at St. Mary's for many years. The elder and only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Yerburgh is Lord Alvingham of Woodfold.

Ramsgreave.

The township of Ramsgreave,—the eastern portion of the parish of Mellor,—did not become a Norman manor. Before the Conquest, it was a part of a chase or hunting-ground attached to the manor of Blackburn, and as Abram suggests, it was probably the " wood, one league long, and the same broad," included in the Blackburn manor in the Domesday survey. It remained a hunting-ground of the De Lacys and the Dukes of Lancaster for about three hundred years, but about 1360, it was transferred to the monks of the Cistercian monastery at Whalley, in whose hands it remained until

the Dissolution [1537], when it was purchased by Sir Alexander Radcliffe. Soon afterwards, it was sold to the Blackburn manorial family, named Barton. Later, as less and less woodland remained, the township passed into the hands of many owners,—Gillibrand, Hoghton, Sharples, and others, and in recent times the principal owners have been the Misses Shorrock, of Barker Lane House, Mellor, the elder of whom reached the advanced age of 95 years! The Ramsgreave Hall estate passed through the hands of many owners. There is now no place of worship in Ramsgreave, but there was formerly a small Independent church, built in 1855, at the Top of the Heights. It was, however, taken down some years ago. In the eastern portion of Ramsgreave, there has been a considerable amount of building during the last twenty-five years.

MELLOR BROOK.

The village or hamlet of Mellor Brook is situated in the extreme west of the parish of Mellor, and in the neighbouring parishes of Balderstone and Samlesbury. Formerly, it possessed a small Anglican church, St. Saviour's, now used as an infant school. For many years to come this school will be associated in the minds of the people of the district with Mrs. Reading, a lady of exceptional ability in the teaching and training of young children. An earlier mistress was Miss Fielding, daughter of Mr. John Fielding, of Balderstone. The newly-appointed mistress is Mrs. Heath.

St. Saviour's Church was built in 1824 by the Independents, but it was purchased by the Anglicans in 1833. On its walls are to be seen a number of family badges or "coats-of-arms," including that of the Alstons of Alston Hall and Hesketh End, Chipping,—Azure, ten étoiles or [A blue ground, with ten stars of gold]. Adjoining the school is a reading-room.

Last century, wood-turning was an industry here, as at Ribchester and Knowle Green, and there was a bobbin-mill near Delph Cottage (now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Moss). There was also a spinning-

ROBERT ARMSTRONG YERBURGH, ESQ., M.P., D.L.,

Of Woodfold Park, Mellor

(1854—1916).

President of the Navy League.

A beautiful stained glass window is placed to his memory in Chester Cathedral in recognition of over 25 years' service as Member of Parliament for Chester. Mr. Yerburgh read the lessons at morning service at Mellor Church for many years.

mill, which, however, has lately been demolished. A small Methodist church was erected in 1852, and despite the trade depression and consequent diminishing population, the cause still survives, under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Bond.

Among the well-known Mellor Brook characters of some years ago were Mr. Thomas Jackson, Mr. Richard Croasdale, Mr. Joshua Turner, Mr. Henry Vickers (Postmaster), Mr. Cleminson, whose outdoor museum, "Lancaster Castle," used to attract visitors; Mrs. Hy. Shuttleworth, who died recently at an advanced age, and Mrs. Waddington, who will long be remembered for her kindness to children.

METHODISM IN MELLOR.

During the great Evangelical revival of the eighteenth century under the Wesleys and Whitefield, John Wesley is said to have preached at Mellor. A Methodist society existed at Mellor in 1790, and the worship was conducted at Abbott House (now occupied by Mrs. J. J. Kenyon), and later, in the old windmill on Mellor Moor (now demolished). In 1802, a small Wesleyan church was built in Mellor Lane. After being twice enlarged, it was replaced by the present Wesleyan Church, built in 1893. Some years later, a chancel was added, a new organ was installed, and a beautiful marble pulpit was erected,—the gift of Mrs. Henry Smalley. The Sunday School, also, has recently been enlarged.

There is a manse, "Boardman House," for a resident minister (the present minister being the Rev. W. Ridyard), who is assisted by the local preachers of the Blackburn and Blackburn Mission Circuits. The minister is also in charge of the Wesleyan churches of Mellor Brook and Samlesbury.

CHAPTER 3.

HISTORICAL OUTLINE.—RELIGIOUS.

"*That rock was Christ.*"—I Cor. x. 4.

Pre-Papal Christianity.

Even in so small a history as the present one, it is necessary to "define the terms," that is, to be sure that both readers and writer are speaking exactly the same language.

The word "church," which will be frequently upon people's lips during the Centenary Celebrations, like the word "nice," is one of the most overworked words in our language. It has nowadays to do duty for the conveyance from mind to mind of many different ideas, for example, a place of worship, a denomination, one's own denomination, the paid ministers of a denomination, the whole group of Christian denominations, a kind of "public opinion" among worshippers, and so on.

The word "church" is an English translation of the Greek word "ecclesia," meaning "a calling out," or "a group of people called out."

It was not originally a specifically Christian term, for it occurs frequently in the Septuagint or Greek Old Testament, where our English translations give "congregation" or "assembly."

Nor, in the New Testament, is the word "ecclesia" used exclusively for a Christian assembly, for non-Christian and even secular gatherings are described by this word, e.g., the Israelites in the wilderness [Acts vii. 38], and the mob at Ephesus [Acts xix. 41].

The Christian senses in which "ecclesia" is used in the New Testament are those of—

(*a*) *The Mystical Church*,—an invisible, spiritual church, the whole body of believers, "the church which is His body." [Eph. i., 22, 23]. This spiritual church is founded not upon Peter [PETROS, a stone, a piece of rock], but upon Christ [PETRA, the bed-rock itself.—Mt. xvi. 18].

As every musician worthy of the name can unlock the gates of the kingdom of music to those who are willing to enter, so every believer, or spiritually-baptized person, has the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven [Mt. xvi. 18], Kingdom of God [Mk. xii. 34], or Kingdom of Christ [Eph. v. 5], and can unlock its gates, declaring the conditions under which sins are retained or forgiven. The words addressed to Peter at Cæsarea Philippi are addressed to him, merely as a type of all believers, for not only are they omitted in "Peter's gospel" [Mark], but they are addressed to other believers in Matthew xviii. 18, where "ye" is substituted for "thou." Philip unlocked the gates of the Kingdom to the Ethiopian, Paul and Silas to their prison-warder at Philippi and to countless others, and just as surely did the "Angel-Adjutant" of Harold Begbie's "Broken Earthenware" unlock the gates of the Kingdom to the poor, despised men of the London slums.

(*b*) *The Visible Churches*,—"The church that is in their house," "the church in thy house," "the churches of Galatia," "the seven churches in Asia."

An old lady whose body has long been at rest in Mellor churchyard once concluded an argument on the present-day churches by saying, "Well, they say that such-and-such a church was the first and that it will be the last!"

In the first days, however, according to the New Testament, there was no thought of one universal visible

MAJOR THE RT. HON. ROBERT DANIEL THWAITES YERBURGH,

First Baron Alvingham of Woodfold, in the County Palatine of Lancaster. Major Yerburgh, who is the elder and only surviving son of Mrs. R. A. Yerburgh, was created Baron Alvingham in June, 1929

organisation or religious empire. There was no "re-union" question, for believers were conscious of being already united under one living, but spiritual, Head. They might, or might not be apostolic, but they were Christian.

"Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name, and HE FOLLOWETH NOT US: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us." "But Jesus said, 'Forbid him not . . . . he that is not against us is on our part."

It was only when leaders became infected by the influence of the pagan Roman Empire, the "Babylon of the West," so whole-heartedly denounced by the inspired John, who had outlived Peter and yet knew nothing of any religious overlord in the city of Rome, that the One Visible Church theory arose.

"Babylon the Great, the mother of . . . . . abominations of the earth, ... the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. . . . . The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth." [Rev. xvii., 5, 6, 9].

A flood of light is thrown on the problem raised by the old Mellor lady referred to, in Paul's letter to the Galatians. That Paul,—himself a founder of many churches,—knew nothing of one visible church, or of one divinely-appointed form of church government, is shown by his description of the Jerusalem Church,—"James, Cephas, and John, who SEEMED to be pillars," . . . . . "whatsoever they were it maketh no matter to me." [Gal. ii. 9, ii. 6].

PRE-PAPAL WORSHIP.

The worship among Christians of the first days consisted of praise, prayer, adoration, and thanksgiving (Lord's Prayer), "Psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs" [Col. iii. 16], "Speaking in tongues" [I. Cor. xiv. 18, 27], "Prophesying" [I. Cor. xiv. 39], "The breaking of bread" [Acts xx. 7], and "Preaching" [Acts xx. 7].

Pre-Papal Christianity in Britain.

[? 1st Century—597].

It is now almost certain that Christianity reached these shores in the first century, that is, during the life-time of one or more of the first disciples, and therefore in the days of this simple, primitive, Evangelical wor-

ROBERT GUY EARDLEY YERBURGH.
Son and heir of Lord Alvingham. Born 16th December, 1926.

ship. It may possibly be proved one day, by excavation, that Paul himself preached here. One old tradition says that the faith was brought directly from Jerusalem by Joseph of Arimathæa, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, who founded the British Christian Church at Avalon or Glastonbury, which, at any rate, was an early centre of

Christian worship, and now may be said to symbolise Celtic, or British, or Pre-Papal Christianity in Britain. It is interesting to note that at Silchester,—a Roman camp, in Hampshire,—the remains of a British Christian church have been discovered.

If, as appears probable from recent events and utterances, it is the policy of Canterbury (the Anglican Communion) to attempt to establish in the near future an Anglican Patriarchate to rank with the Latin and the four Orthodox patriarchates of the East, from her own point of view, it would surely strengthen her position to consider the claims of Silchester, Glastonbury, or St. Davids, instead of Canterbury, with its Italian associations.

"The Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this realm of England."—*Anglican Prayer Book.*

THE PAPAL OCCUPATION OF BRITAIN [597—1529].

After the departure of the Romans, about 410 A.D., the heathen English or Saxon tribes took possession of the south and east of this country, but Christianity survived among the British tribes of the north and west. Despite the fierce racial hatred that existed, Celtic missionaries laboured to Christianise the northern parts of what is now England, in the sixth century.

With the landing of the Romanist monks, headed by Augustine of Rome, who should not be confused with Augustine of Hippo [354-430], in the year 597, began the Papal Occupation of Britain, which lasted until 1529. This Occupation coincided approximately with the Mediæval Period or the Middle Ages.

It is worthy of note, however, that in spite of the work of Augustine, Theodore of Tarsus, Wilfrid, and other Romanisers, the tyrannical Duke William of Normandy was able to say, more than a thousand years after the birth of Christ (1070), when asked to pay homage to the Bishop of Rome, "Thy legate Hubert, holy father, hath called upon me in thy name to take the

oath of fealty to thee and thy successors. . . . Homage to thee I have not chosen, nor do I choose to do. I never made a promise to that effect, neither do I find that it was EVER performed by my predecessors to thine."

The Protestant Emancipation. [1529].

During Norman and Plantagenet times many bitter struggles had occurred between the English kings and the bishops of Rome, recalled by such proper names as Clarendon, Provisors, Praemunire. On the Continent, also, there were long and bitter quarrels between the Empire and the Papacy, and even if Luther, Calvin, Cranmer, Knox, Henry VIII, and Elizabeth had never lived, the Protestant Emancipation, commonly called the Reformation, would certainly have occurred. It was one phase of the Renaissance or Awakening of Europe. It was the cry of the human spirit for freedom.

Whether or not the work of the Protestant Emancipation went far enough, is one of those matters upon which Anglicans and Nonconformists must for ever agree to differ. No useful purpose, one would think, could be served at Lambeth or elsewhere, by attempting to effect a so-called " reunion " of those, on the one hand, who believe in one visible episcopalian church, membership of which is made without consent, and those, on the other hand, who believe that the visible churches, as distinct from the Mystical Church, are voluntary associations of believers and potential believers, gathering together in Christ's name, conscious of His presence " in the midst."

CHAPTER 4.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

"The house of the Lord."—Ps. cxxii. 1.

During the Middle Ages, after the establishment of the ecclesiastical parochial system, "Christ's Croft" or South Lancashire formed part of the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, but after the Protestant Emancipation, commonly called the Reformation, it was transferred to the diocese of Chester. From the formation of the diocese of Manchester in the mid-nineteenth century, the old parish of Blackburn was included in that diocese, and since 1926 it has been the centre of the newly-formed diocese of Blackburn.

Down to the year 1829 there was no Anglican church in what is now the parish of Mellor. The parish church was in Blackburn, and there was not even a "chapel-of-ease."

About 1820, Parliament made a grant of a million pounds for church building, and among the "Million Pounds Churches," were three in the neighbourhood of Blackburn, namely, Holy Trinity, Over Darwen; St. James', Lower Darwen; and St. Mary's, Mellor.

PREPARATIONS.

The first letter on record is as follows* :—

Doctors Commons,
30th June, 1823.

Sir

I have laid before His Majesty's Commissioners for building new Churches, the Plans for the new Chapel

MELLOR CHURCH INTERIOR.

As it was prior to 1897.

East end.

proposed to be built at Mellor in the Parish of Blackburn, and am directed to acquaint you, that the Board do not approve of the labels over the second range of Windows, and they request that you will call the attention of the Architect to the present internal arrangement, according to which a great many persons will be unable to see the Minister and they desire that the same may be altered—you will also have the goodness to direct the Architect to send a detailed Specification of the several Works, and a detailed Estimate of the Expence [Expense], and to fill up the accompanying Paper and return the same with the Plans.

I am,
Sir,
Your very obedt. Servant,
GEORGE JENNER,
Scy.

The Revd. Mr. Whitaker.

[**In the case of old letters, where quotation is obvious, it will be convenient to omit quotation marks.*]

The following extracts from the correspondence of this period may also be of interest to readers:—

Blackburn,
Aug. 2nd, 1823.

Sir,

I have despatched by this night's mail a Parcel containing the new Plans of the intended Church *at Mellor*, with a Specification and detailed Estimate. Mr. Collins has only been able to furnish me with them this morning. It will give me great pleasure to learn that the alterations meet with the approbation of His Majesty's Commissioners. The weather-mouldings over the windows in the Clerestory have been removed, and the Pulpit brought close to the Chancel according to directions. But in order that it might be capable of another situation should it appear desirable at any future time I have directed the Architect to construct it of three several parts, which being easily separated from one another

will allow its being removed to any other part of the Church. With this view many of the free sittings have been also made moveable. I have thought it advisable to make a material increase of the Pew sittings, which has added to the expense, and, as these occupy more space than the free seats, the total number of persons accommodated in the building is somewhat short of that contemplated.

The total amount of the Architect's Estimate exceeds my wishes. That which he sent up during my stay in London, but arrived too late for presentation, came to £4,300. I shall therefore take the opportunity of accounting for the increase. The projections north and south of the tower (for the vestry and staircase) have been raised, in order to allow a free entrance under the tower which was before occupied by a circular flight of stone steps.—The clerk of the works is also a considerable addition, and there has been an advance in the price of Lead.—The following particulars will explain the surplus more clearly, and shew how the estimate comes to exceed £4,000. The first of the following articles I explained to the Commissioners myself, and therefore I need not repeat what I said at the meeting which I attended:—

	£	s.	d.
Expense of stone	100	0	0
Clerk of works	151	4	0
Iron founder	30	0	0
Painter	70	0	0
Extra framing in Pews	50	0	0
Altar piece	12	0	0
Advance in Lead	18	0	0
Font	7	0	0
Incidental expenses	100	0	0
	£538	4	0

To which must be added the expense of raising the parts of the Building which I have before alluded to, which

will probably be about £150. This will nearly account for £700.

You will be kind enough to inform His Majesty's Commissioners that the Architects for the new chapels at Over Darwen and Lower Darwen are now employed in preparing their plans. They have received instructions that the expense of each must not exceed £4,000. It is my wish that all necessary arrangements should be completed before the end of the year, in which case the Foundations can be laid before spring, the buildings begun early next season, and roofed in before the ensuing winter.

I beg leave to remain,

Your obedient and humble Servt.,

JNO. WM. WHITTAKER.

To George Jenner, Esq.,
Doctors Commons.

Doctors Commons,
16th August, 1823.

Sir,

I have laid before His Majesty's Commissioners for building new Churches your letter of the 26th ulto. transmitting altered Plans for the new Chapel proposed to be built at Mellor in the Parish of Blackburn, and am directed to acquaint you, that the Board have postponed the consideration of these Plans till those of the two other Chapels to be built in this Parish, have been received, you are requested therefore to obtain them, as soon as possible, and to desire the Architects to furnish Testimonials of their ability to superintend the undertaking.

I am,

Sir,

Your very obedt. Servant,

GEORGE JENNER,

Scy.

To the Revd. Mr. Whitaker.

MELLOR CHURCH INTERIOR.
As it was prior to 1897.
West end.

Doctors Commons,
30th March, 1825.

Sir,

I am directed by His Majesty's Commissioners for building new Churches, to send you a Copy of a Report of the Architect attached to the Office of Works, on the Plans prepared by Mr. Collins for the new Chapels proposed to be built in the parish of Blackburn, and to request that you will consider, and report to the Board whether in your opinion the Architect is competent to carry these undertakings into effect, and if not, whether it will not be better to obtain Plans from another Architect forthwith.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedt. Servant,
GEORGE JENNER,
Scy.

The Rev. Mr. Whitaker.

Blackburn, Apr. 29, 1825.

To George Jenner, Esqre.

Sir,

Mr. Rickman has notified me his consent to the terms proposed by His Majesty's Commissioners, viz.: to furnish one set of plans and drawings with specification to be executed under his superintendence at Mellor, Lower Darwen, and Over Darwen, he being allowed a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

While I communicate the architect's consent to this arrangement, I hope the Honble. Board will excuse me in the expression of my regret that it should have been entertained. I trust that I shall meet with this indulgence when I submit to them the following reasons for lamenting that one sole design should be carried into execution in those three places.

(1.) In point of appearance, the sites are totally dissimilar, insomuch that a building which would have a beautiful and peaceful effect in any one of them

would in my opinion be quite misplaced in either of the others.

At Mellor, it is on a bold, commanding eminence where it will be seen to the distance of twenty or thirty miles. On this account I advised a small spire to be added to it in the former plans. At Lower Darwen it is comparatively on a level plain where a small bell-turret would be sufficient. At Over Darwen it is on a brow that looks down upon a thickly-peopled village close to it.

(2.) There is a wide difference in the approach. Upon this, I conceive, would depend the question upon which front the architectural ornaments should be expended, since that part which is not seen at all, or very little, might be made as plain as possible. At Over Darwen the West end faces the town and will form almost the only approach. At Lower Darwen the East end will be that by which the Churchyard will be chiefly entered. At Mellor both ends are equally exposed to the public.

(3.) At Over Darwen, His Majesty's Commissrs. have agreed to give larger accommodation, viz.: for 1,500 persons, in consequence of the great and increasing population of that Chapelry. The inhabitants are very anxious to have a tower, capable of holding six bells, which they are bent upon purchasing at their own expense. The size and importance of the place render this highly appropriate, if not requisite, and I hope their wishes may be granted by His Mj.'s Commissrs. in consideration that the Honble. board has already favourably recd. such a plan.

When all these disadvantages in the adoption of one design only are taken into consideration, involving some impropriety in architecture and much local inconvenience, besides taking into consideration the smallness of the district in which the three fac-similes will stand, I cannot help persuading myself that His Mj.'s Com-

missrs. will agree with me in thinking that they more than counter-balance the saving of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which would be so effected.

I trust the Board will pardon the openness and plainness with which I have thought it my duty to express my sentiments on this weighty subject.

I shall anxiously wait for the result of their deliberations on it.

I beg leave to remain,
Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedt. and humble Servt.,
JNO. WM. WHITTAKER.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE [1827].

Mr. Henry Sudell, of Woodfold Park, was asked by the Rev. J. W. Whittaker to lay the foundation-stone of the new church, but declined the invitation.

Woodfold Park,
1st Feby., 1827.

My Dear Sir,

Allow me to acknowledge the kind message you left with Mrs. Sudell yesterday relative to the Mellor Church, and to assure you that I feel complimented by your wish that I should lay the first stone of that building, this office I hope yourself will undertake, and I beg leave to say that I shall have particular pleasure in attending you upon the occasion; as I hope to see you on Wednesday I shall then be happy to hold further conversation with you on this subject. This Family beg to join in kind regards to Mrs. Whittaker and yourself. I hope you will oblige me by accepting a portion of my yesterday's sport and believe me,

My Dear Sir,
Yours very sincerely,
HENRY SUDELL.

The foundation-stone of St. Mary's Church was laid on June 28, 1827.

MELLOR CHURCH COUNCIL, 1929.

Back row: Messrs. Wm. Blackburn, John Hy. Hargreaves, F. Peacock, Jas. Aspden, Enoch Whalley, Rd. Collinson, Bert Peacock, W. Halliwell, John Kenyon.

Front row: Mr. James Collinson, Miss Bottomley, Mr. Hy. Whittaker, The Vicar, Mr. Harold Collison, Mrs. Hy. Whittaker, Mr. Eli Kenyon (Hon. Secretary).

The following account of the Foundation-Stone Laying is from Press cuttings (apparently from *The Blackburn Mail*) of the time, and a service-sheet to be used on the day of the ceremony :—

Psalms, etc.,
To be sung on the Occasion of
Laying the Foundation-Stone
of the
New Church of St. Mary,
at
Mellor,
On Thursday, the 28th day of June, 1827.

Before the Ceremony,
The Hundredth Psalm.

When the Ceremony is ended,
The Magnificat.

After the Address,
The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 7th staves of
Psalm 132.

THE NEW CHURCH OF ST. MARY, AT MELLOR.

"We have this week the gratification of recording the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the second church erecting, or about to be erected in this parish [i.e., the parish of Blackburn], out of the funds appropriated by Parliament for building.—The place chosen for this second sacred edifice is in the township of Mellor, three miles distant from Blackburn, and containing a population of upwards of two thousand souls. It has hitherto been entirely destitute of any place of worship for members of the Established Church, consequently the erection of an edifice such as the one the ceremony of whose foundation we are now about to record, must be matter of congratulation and joy to all

those who believe our venerable Establishment to be built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets.

" The site whereon the church is designed to stand, as well as the ground to be used as a burial-place is the munificent gift of Henry Sudell, Esq., of Woodfold Park, the Lord of the Manor of Mellor, to whom the inhabitants are already under the deepest obligations. It commands a most extensive, beautiful, and picturesque prospect; and the church, when erected, will be a prominent object from the Preston New Road, and from the vale of the Ribble will then be seen—

' The decent church topping the neighbouring hill.'

" Thursday last was the day on which the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone took place; and about eleven o'clock," . . . . " a procession was formed in King Street, Blackburn, and proceeded to the site of the proposed building." . . . .

" The morning being wet, and the atmosphere continuing dark and threatening, the procession was not so numerous as it would doubtless otherwise have been, but a large concourse of people accompanied it. The Vicar's carriage, in which a party of ladies [drove], and several gigs, followed in the rear.

" When the procession had arrived at Beardwood, it was met by another procession from Mellor. . . The processions united and then moved forward to the appointed spot, where a considerable number of people were assembled. When the several branches of the procession had taken their places (the ladies on a platform erected for them) the Hundredth Psalm was sung, after which a glass bottle containing the coins of the realm, copies of *The Blackburn Mail* of the 20th and 27th ult., and one or two London papers, was deposited in a cavity cut in the stone for that purpose."

" A plate under the foundation-stone bears the following inscription :—

D. O. M.

[Deo optimo maximo, To God, best and greatest.]

' Gloria in Excelsis.'

'The first stone of a Church, to be called the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was laid by John William Whittaker, Clerk, Bachelor in Divinity, and Vicar of Blackburn, on the 28th day of June, 1827, being the eighth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Fourth. The entire expense of the Building, amounting to £5516 18 8, was defrayed by His Majesty's Commissioners for building new Churches and Chapels. The Site of the Fabric, and the Ground for the Cemetery, were given by Henry Sudell. Esquire, of Woodfold Park.

JOHN WILLIAM WHITTAKER, Vicar.
[Of Blackburn].

WILLIAM HOULKER
JAMES HOULKER
JOHN FOSTER
THOMAS THWAITES
Churchwardens.
[Of Blackburn Parish Church].

MESSRS. RICKMAN & HUTCHINSON, Architects.

JOHN JOHNSON, Clerk of the Works.

PILLING, Sculpr., Blackburn.' "

"The usual ceremonies of spreading the mortar, lowering the stone, and trying the level of it, etc., were gone through by the Rev. the Vicar [of Blackburn], after which the 'Magnificat, or Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary,' was sung."

THE VICAR'S ADDRESS.

"The Vicar [Rev. J. W. Whittaker] then ascended a small platform, and delivered an eloquent, impressive, and appropriate address, the substance of which, as nearly as we can recollect, is as follows:

"'On an occasion like the present I may be permitted your indulgence in making a short address, although

MEMBERS OF THE MELLOR CHURCH INSTITUTE AND THE MEN'S BIBLE CLASS. 1929.

Back Row: Messrs. G. Aspden, H. Proctor, E. Greenhalgh, W. Graham, J. Hargreaves, B. Peacock, J. Croasdale, J. Proctor, J. Dean, W. Halliwell, E. Pye, G. Sharples, E. Walton.

Third Row: Messrs. J. Pomfret, J. Aspden, W. Blackburn, A. Blackburn, E. Proctor, J. Hargreaves, R. Collinson, J. Kenyon, E. Whalley, G. Singleton, W. Emmett, H. Holroyd.

Second Row: Messrs. J. Helm, J. Pye, E. Ward, H. Hargreaves, H. Collison (Teacher of Men's Bible Class), Rev. F. G. Harris (Vicar), Hy. Whittaker (President of Church Institute), T. Waddington, G. Aspden, J. Collinson, J. Bond, A. Hindle.

Front Row: Messrs. E. Talbot, J. T. Peacock, H. Haworth, H. Croasdale, E. Croasdale, A. B. Collison, J. Henshaw, R. Helm, J. Collinson, J. Parker, J. Pye.

by so doing I may seem somewhat to anticipate the object which this building, now solemnly begun, is intended to answer. The foundation-stone of another New Church, in the populous Parish of Blackburn, has now been laid: and on this site, given by the liberality of one whose merits are too well known to all of you to require any encomium of mine (would that his health had permitted him to be personally with us, as I am sure his heart is on this day of rejoicing), we are about to erect a church to the honour of Almighty God, to be set apart for ever from all secular purposes, and devoted to His sole praise and worship. May He look down auspiciously from Heaven, His dwelling-place, and bless this our work, an humble endeavour to promote His glory!—May He protect it in its progress and expedite its completion!—And may He vouchsafe His spiritual presence here to all who shall call upon His holy Name in this place, and come to Him, their Heavenly Father, by faith in Christ their Saviour!

"'As befits a building dedicated to so holy a purpose, this fabric will be one of no ordinary beauty and elegance. Without pretensions to magnificence and splendour, it will be marked by those solemn, and appropriate architectural embellishments, that will sufficiently bespeak it to be no man's abode, no building erected for mere worldly views, but the house of the living God, the temple of the Ever-blessed, Eternal, and Most High.

"'Yet, though handsome in structure, I would not that its beauty should be supposed to consist solely in those external circumstances with which the cunning hand of man adorns his workmanship of wood and stone,—frail materials that, like ourselves, must soon perish, and in the ordinary course of nature follow the artificers themselves into decay and oblivion; I would prefer an intellectual,—a spiritual comeliness,—that "beauty of holiness" which can only be imparted, and that through divine grace, by those who shall here offer up to God the acceptable sacrifice of sincerity, holiness, and purity,—a beauty which will never be wanting in

any place where His servants assemble to worship Him who is a Spirit in spirit and in truth.

" ' How much a Church has been needed here, you who now stand round me are aware as well as myself. And many of you who are more familiar with this district than I can possibly be, can bear witness to the truth of my words, when I declare how great are the evils that have arisen from the want of one in this neighbourhood. Long before I entertained any reasonable expectation of accomplishing this desirable object, the most forcible representations to this effect had been made to me; and our late Diocesan, ever watchful over the spiritual welfare of those under his jurisdiction, has himself lamented the circumstance to me more than once in terms expressive of deepest concern. Many years since, I find, such a design was entertained;—but either from local indifference on the part of those to whom God had afforded the means of promoting such a work, or culpable supineness on the part of the legislature, then not fully awake to the importance of general measure, the design was abandoned.

" ' The calamities that invariably ensue from want of church room in populous countries or from the absence of ministers competent to instruct the inhabitants in the doctrines of the gospel, are great, manifold, and lamentable. Many in consequence fall into a kind of spiritual lethargy, and indifference to all religion. Others become the dupes of the wildest fanaticism,—some the advocates of the most absurd and visionary theories in matters of religion,—whilst a vast number devote themselves to the most debasing, gross, and stupid superstitions. Nor can we wonder that, in such circumstances, the remainder, seeing religion only under these odious and disgusting forms, should loudly express their aversion,—and being destitute of teachers and spiritual guides, should generalize the dislike which they cannot but feel, include all religion in one sweeping censure, and treat it as a delusion or a fable.—Fanaticism and infidelity are inseparable companions. These kindred friends are the greatest foes to true religion, and, though

widely dissimilar in appearance and outward character, are never far apart. Nor is the transition from the one to the other difficult. Wherever you meet with one of them you may depend upon it that the other is somewhere or other close in its neighbourhood. Had Christianity never been debased by human crime and folly,—had it never been overloaded by silly ceremonies, or corrupted by blasphemous falsehoods,—had superstition and fanaticism never tarnished the lustre of the Christian sanctuary, infidelity would never have made the frightful stride with which Europe has beheld her advance during the last half-century.

"'But the morning of a better day is, I trust, now dawning. It is not now the fashion to express, or to permit the expression of irreverence towards religion or its ministers. The number of serious, pious, and religious individuals is now incalculably greater than it was thirty years since. Even in those who otherwise lie open to severe reprehension both in faith and morals, you may observe the profession of great respect and deference to religion,—an undoubted proof of the superior estimation in which it stands, and the more wholesome state of the public mind on this subject. On an occasion similar to the present, I very lately alluded to the very perceptible change which I have myself witnessed in this respect during the few years that I have resided among you. Believe me, I have watched its progress, and witnessed the increase of that happier spirit with the liveliest joy,—and sure I am that if we be not wanting to ourselves,—if the labourers in Christ's vineyard, the appointed ministers of His Gospel be not remiss in the duties of their high office, that improvement will not only continue, but surprise us all by surpassing our most sanguine expectations. And with reference to our own church, I will venture to say without fear of contradiction from anyone qualified to speak on the subject, that, from the time of the first of our monarchs of the Stuart line to the present day, there never was a period in which the Church of England was more prosperous,—there never was a time when she

more entirely deserved and obtained the honour, approbation, and affections of the respectable part of the community. . . . . God Himself looks down favourably on this and on every endeavour which we make to promote His glory.—and if He be for us, we need not be oversolicitous to inquire who and what are our opponents. I call upon you, therefore, to join me in earnest and solemn supplication to the Throne of Grace, that the Giver of every good and perfect gift may be pleased to succour, bless, and sanctify this our work.' "

The Vicar [of Blackburn] then led the people in prayer.

" At the conclusion, part of the 132nd Psalm was sung, after which the Vicar and Clergy and several of the Gentlemen went to Woodfold Park, on the invitation of its hospitable proprietor, and there a most sumptuous cold collation was provided for them.

" The edifice, we understand, is expected to be ready for consecration in about two years, and will be a very elegant structure, capable of accommodating about 1,500 persons."

The Building of the Church. [1827—1829].

The building of the Church of St. Mary, Mellor, occupied a little over two years, from the summer of 1827 to the autumn of 1829. During this period, there was a considerable amount of correspondence, of which the following extracts are typical.*

To His Majesty's Commissioners for building New Churches.

We, Rickman and Hutchinson, Architects, do hereby certify that Messrs. Sugden and Coates, the Contractors for the Masons' and Excavators' Work in the New Chapel, building at Mellor, in the Parish of Blackburn,

---

[* *In the case of old letters, where quotation is obvious, quotation marks will be omitted for convenience.*]

have performed work to the value of Seven Hundred and Fifty Pounds, being not less than 3¼ tenths of the whole work to be performed by them under [their] contract, which amounts to the sum of £2,300 : 0 : 0, and which work has been performed to our entire satisfaction.

Wherefore we pray that the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds, being two thirds of the Amount of the work so performed, may be issued to the said Messrs. Sugden and Coates, on account.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands, this fifteenth day of September, 1827.

RICKMAN & HUTCHINSON
Architects.

Countersigned
JOHN WILLIAM WHITTAKER
Local Committee.

SUGDEN & COATES
Contractors.

Doctors Commons,
26th Sept., 1827.

Sir,

I am directed by His Majesty's Commissioners for building New Churches, to acquaint you that they have ordered the Sum of £500 to be paid to Messrs. Sugden & Coates on account for the Diggers' and Masons' Work performed by them in the new Chapel, building at Mellor, and of which order Messrs. Sugden & Coates have been advised.

I am, Sir.
Your very obedt. Servant,
GEORGE JENNER,
Scy.

The Rev. Mr. Whitaker.

Report of the State of the Chapel at Mellor in the Parish of Blackburn.

The Aisle Cornice all set. The Piers and Arches of the South Side all set, and those of the North Side

THE MOTHERS' UNION, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MELLOR, 1929.

Back row: Mesdames Goldsborough, E. Pye, Howarth, Thompson, Tom Hargreaves, J. Pye, W. Whalley.
Middle row: Mesdames R. Aspden, Lodge, Warburton, Kenyon, Bretherton, W. Bretherton, Lucas, J. E. Collinson, Rd. Collinson, J. Proctor, Miss Hargreaves, J. H. Hargreaves.
Back row: Mesdames: Henshaw, Boyes, W. Whalley, E. Kenyon, E. Talbot, The Vicar, Mesdames Haworth, J. Collinson, E. Whalley, T. Aspden, H. Collison.

setting. The Tower several courses higher, and the Walling above the arches on the South Side ready for the Clerestory Sills. The East Window set. The Gallery framing and that of South Aisle roof fixed. A large quantity of Materials on the ground and working.

RICKMAN & HUTCHINSON,
Architects.

Blackburn, June 3rd, 1828.

Report of the State of the Chapel at Mellor, in the Parish of Blackburn.

26th September, 1828.

The whole of the Nave and Aisles Stonework complete except part of the Parapet. The Tower has part of the Belfry windows set.

The whole of the Roofs on and most of the groining fixed, a large quantity of the Flooring Boards and most of the framing prepared.

The Nave gutters prepared, and the roof nearly half-slated.

The Lead for the other parts of the Church nearly all on the ground. The casements are in the Church and the rest of the glazing prepared.

Witness our hand,

RICKMAN & HUTCHINSON.
Architects.

Report of the State of the New Chapel at Mellor in the Parish of Blackburn.

The whole of the roofs finished both as to lead and slates, except the staircases and tower gutters.

The exterior stonework finished, except capping, and part of the Parapet.

The Tower completed and one-fourth of the spire erected.

The Plasterers' Work proceeding: one aisle finished, the first coat; the other lathed; and the Nave partly one coat, and the rest lathed.

The whole of the Carpenters' work completed, with the exception of flooring joists.

The Joiners' work in a forward state of preparation.

Witness our hand the 22nd day of 11 mo. (Nov.), 1828.

Signed,

Rickman & Hutchinson.

About this time, a fatal accident occurred. A man engaged in completing the spire was overcome by dizziness, and, after calling to his father below, fell to the ground, and was killed.

The Church of St. Mary, Mellor, 1829.

At length the great task of building the church was completed, and the question of the Consecration and the appointment of the first Incumbent had to be considered. It is perhaps fitting, here, to give a brief description of the church as it appeared one hundred years ago.

Very little Saxon, or even Norman, church architecture is to be found in Lancashire. The old church at Heysham represents the former, and Stydd Church, Ribchester,—with its round-arched doorway and zig-zag ornament,—represents the latter.

Nearly all our older churches are built in one or more of the three kinds of Gothic architecture, viz. :

Early English. [Approximately 13th century].
Transition Period.
Decorated. [Approximately 14th century].
Transition Period.
Perpendicular. [Approximately 15th century].

The name " Gothic " [Cf. " Christian "] was first given in contempt by those who disliked the change of style, and who regarded the new style as fit only for the Goths, Huns, Vandals, and other barbarians. Yet, to the majority of people, to-day, the pointed or Gothic style of church architecture is the most beautiful of all styles, and almost all our modern churches are built in

imitation of Gothic, though some people are of opinion that the spirit of the present age ought to be able to express itself in a new and characteristic style of architecture.

St. Mary's Church, Mellor, which is 116 feet long, 66 feet wide, with a tower and slender spire 120 feet high, is built in imitation of the Early English style. As in the case of all modern "Gothic," the trained eye of the architectural student would doubtless note many incongruities, but the general effect is pleasing to all but the over-critical.

The church consists of a nave, north and south aisles, tower with spire, and vestry. There are no transepts, and the chancel proper is short. At the west end there is a gallery for the choir, but in the early days the church did not possess an organ, and the singing was led by an orchestra. Mr. William Ormerod, who died a few years ago, at Lamack, at about the age of 90, used to relate with pride that, as a young man, he played the bass fiddle at Mellor Church. An arcade, or series of arches, separates each aisle from the nave, and above this arcade are the windows of the clerestory. There is a beautiful groined ceiling, which must surely be one of the finest ceilings of its type. The pews were formerly of the old-fashioned "box" kind, to be seen in very few churches to-day, and at the western end a wooden screen shut out the font from the nave. The pulpit would probably be in the centre, as at St. Paul's, Blackburn, to emphasise the Ministry of the Word.

THE FIRST INCUMBENT, THE REV. ROWLAND INGRAM, M.A. [1829—1830].

About the beginning of July, 1829, the Vicar of Blackburn (the Rev. J. W. Whittaker, D.D., who had succeeded the famous historian, Dr. T. D. Whitaker [D. 1821], of Whalley, Blackburn, and Holme-in-Cliviger, and who, himself, was a scholar) invited the Rev. Rowland Ingram, of Giggleswick, to be the first

INTERIOR OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MELLOR, 1929.

incumbent of Mellor. Mr. Ingram was a son of the Rev. Rowland Ingram, Headmaster of Giggleswick School for 45 years. He accepted the invitation, but he resigned in the following year [1830]. Mr. Ingram was a cousin of Mrs. Dixon Robinson, grandmother of Col. T. C. Robinson, D.S.O., of Green House, Balderstone.

The following letters, etc., of this period may be of interest to readers :—

Craven Bank, nr. Settle,
July 11, 1829.

My dear Sir,

I feel very much obliged to you for the kind offer you have made me, and as far as my own inclination goes, should most willingly accept it, but I cannot do so without first consulting my Father, who is at present from home, and is not expected to return for a fortnight. As he is travelling about the country, it is impossible to say when my letter may reach him, if it does at all; so that there may be a delay of the time of his absence; which, however, I hope you will not consider of much consequence, particularly as I think that he will accede to my wishes on this subject.

The terms which you propose I cannot but think in every respect just and unobjectionable,—it is my most sincere wish that my conduct should always accord with the promise you require. You may depend upon my sending you my ultimate decision as soon as I possibly can, and if I do not hear from you, I shall conclude that you will allow me the time mentioned, in case I cannot obtain my Father's determination sooner,

& believe me,
my dear Sir,
Yours very much obliged,
& most truly,
ROWLAND INGRAM.

[To the Rev. Dr. J. W. Whittaker.]

Giggleswick, July 20, 1829.

My dear Sir,

I have received a letter from my Father, in which he expresses his full concurrence with my wishes regarding Mellor, and desires me to make his best respects and acknowledgments to you; it therefore only remains for me to say, that I accept your offer on the terms proposed in your letter, and I hope I shall be enabled to do justice to the charge committed to me.

If there is any possibility of getting tolerable lodgings in Mellor, I would much rather live there than in Blackburn. Should you happen to know any one that could accommodate me, I should feel much obliged to you for the information.—At present my engagements are such that it would be very inconvenient for me to commence residence before the end of August, indeed I should very much wish to be at liberty until a few days before the Consecration of the Church.

I remain,
my dear Sir,
yours very truly
Rowland Ingram.

[To the Rev. Dr. J. W. Whittaker.]

To the Right Rev. John Bird Lord Bishop of Chester.

We, whose names are hereunder written testify and make known that Rowland Ingram, clerk, bachelor of arts nominated to serve the cure of Mellor, in the county of Lancaster, having been personally known to us for the ten months last past, hath, during that time, lived piously, soberly, and honestly; nor hath he at any time, so far as we know or believe, held, written, or taught any thing contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the united Church of England and Ireland; and moreover we believe him, in our consciences, to be a person worthy to be licensed to the said curacy.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands

this 6th day of Septr. in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty nine.

JOHN CLAPHAM, Vicar of Giggleswick.
WILLIAM BURY, Perpetual Curate of Horton in Ribblesdale.
ANTHONY MARSDEN, Vicar of Gargrave.

11th September 1829. The Subscribers to this Testimonial are Beneficed Clergymen of my Diocese and worthy of Credit.

E. EBOR.

The Consecration of the Church. [Sep. 15, 1829].

The Rev. Rowland Ingram was appointed Minister or "Curate,"—the first incumbent of Mellor,—and entered his new sphere of labour on the day of the Consecration of the Church, September 15, 1829.

The following is the account of the ceremony given by "The Blackburn Gazette," September 19, 1829:—

"At ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, his Lordship [The Bishop of Chester] consecrated St. Mary's Church at Mellor. The service was performed by the Rev. George Park, and an excellent discourse delivered by the Rev. the Vicar of Blackburn, from the 122nd Psalm and 1st verse—'I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.'

"This church, which is 110 feet by 66, is intended to accommodate 1,000 persons, and is in the Early English style which prevailed about the year 1250; it has a spire about 120 feet high. The church has no galleries on the sides but one at the west end."

After a short ministry of about eight months, Mr. Ingram resigned, and the following is his letter of resignation:—

Blackburn,
May 24, 1830.

My dear Sir,

It is not without considerable regret that I write to inform you of my intention to resign the curacy of Mellor; but with the prospects it at present holds out to me I have no alternative left; and I am so circumstanced

THE CHOIR AND CHURCH OFFICERS, 1929.

Back row: Messrs. G. Halliwell, E. Kenyon, W. Emmett, L. Boyes, G. Sharp, W. Singleton, Miss Annie Croasdale, J. Rawcliffe, B. Ashcroft, J. Kenyon, B. Peacock, E. Greenhalgh, J. W. Talbot.

Middle row: Messrs. J. Aspden, W. Blackburn, Miss W. Memmory, E. Walton, Mr. E. Whalley. Croasdale, J. Whalley, Miss B. Sharp, Mrs. B. Peacock, Mr. Miss M. Memmory, C. Coyne, A. Boyes, W. Whalley, H.

Front row: Messrs. R. Pye, H. Proctor, H. Collison, J. Croasdale, F. Memmory, W. Talbot, The Vicar, R. Blackburn, H. Blackburn, R. Blackburn, Hy. Whittaker, J. H. Hargreaves, J. Pye.

as to be extremely desirous of being freed from my agreement as soon as possible. I have had a letter from the Bounty board, informing me that £200 is appropriated to the church at Mellor; and the Bishop of Chester has also informed me that it is placed on the list for another lot as soon as one shall fall to it.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

ROWLAND INGRAM.

[To the Rev. Dr. J. W. Whittaker.]

The following is a cutting from "The Blackburn Gazette" of November 10, 1830:—

"On Thursday, the 26th ult., at St. Martin's Church, Leicester, the Rev. Rowland Ingram, M.A., now of Wing, in the county of Rutland, and late of Mellor, near this town, to Maria, only child of Samuel Alston, Esq., of Leicester."

The following is a letter concerning Mr. Ingram's resignation:—

. . . . .

May 26th, 1830.

My dear Sir,

Mr. Ingram having given me to understand on taking Tea with me yesterday afternoon, that he had signified to you his intention of resigning the Chaplaincy of Mellor,—may I be permitted most respectfully to say that I am particularly anxious to communicate with you before you make your arrangements in regard to Mellor. The state of the weather depriving me of the happiness I had anticipated in seeing you this evening I have thought it right (altho' not without fear and trembling lest you should accuse me totally neglectful in praying to be preserved from presumptuous sins) to lose no time in forwarding this intimation, which I trust you will pardon my taking the liberty of doing.

I remain, My Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

JAS. STEWARD.

Rev. J. W. Whittaker.

The Rev. George Pigott, B.A. [1830—1831].

The second incumbent was the Rev. George Pigott, whose incumbency also was a short one.

A letter from Mr. Pigott to Dr. J. W. Whittaker :—

Revd. Sir,

I have to beg your pardon for having so long delayed giving you a decided answer respecting the chapelry at Blackburn. On my return home I found a letter from a friend who had been interesting himself in obtaining a curacy for me, stating that he had great hopes of receiving the offer of one in Hampshire, and that I should have immediate information concerning it. As the parties are my personal friends and the income nearly double that you were kind enough to offer me, I have taken the liberty of delaying my answer to you, a liberty which I trust you will excuse. I have now to beg that you will allow me to wait till Tuesday's Post ere I decide finally. I have to offer you my thanks for the kind manner in which you tendered the offer and all information concerning it, and beg leave with great respect to subscribe myself

George Pigott.

Southill, Biggleswade,
Beds.

July 17th, 1830.

Another Letter from Mr. Pigott to Dr. J. W. Whittaker :—

Revd. Sir,

In accepting your kind offer of the chapelry near Blackburn, I must offer you my sincere thanks both for that and the liberal manner in which you have allowed me time to decide upon it. I have been induced to wait till this morning, as it would give me a day, and by coach, I knew, this letter would be very little after the regular post. I shall be ready to enter upon my duty by the time you fixed at my interview with you at Cambridge, the first of August, or earlier if you and Mr. Ingram should desire it, and should be much obliged if

you would let me have a correct direction to him that I may give him that information. I would beg leave also to ask of you, to give me a form of the written pledge as the voiding of the curacy, as I do not know how you would wish it to be worded. Will there be a necessity for me to go to Chester to get licensed and can I do it thro' another person. I should be much obliged if you would let me have this information by return of post directing under cover to W. H. Whithead, Esq., M.P., Southill, Biggleswade, but to me after Friday as Parliament is dissolved on that day.

With great respect I remain

Your much obliged and grateful

Southill, GEORGE PIGOTT.

July 21st, 1830.

The following is a letter from Mr. Hinde, of Millstone, concerning a right-of-way :—

To the Rev. J. W. Whittaker, D.D.

Rev. Sir,

Mr. Pigott, the Minister of this Church has for the Two last Sundays thought proper to open the East Gate of the Church Yard which has caused people to Trespass upon my Land and which has caused me to seek redress (for such Trespass) by Law which I have done and am determined so to do so long as I am Tenant thereof.

It is not my intention to Farm Land to be made into a Road for the pleasure of any individual. You will therefore as head of this Church be pleased to request the Curate of this place to desist from causing such strong decension [dissension] in his Congregation for I assure you until I am duly Authorised by Mr. Sudell to allow a Road through the Land neither he nor any one else shall Trespass upon it with impunity. Neither shall that Gate be opened on any pretense whatever. Your [prompt] attention to this Request will allay [controversies] and oblige

Rev. Sir your obt. Servt.,

Millstone, Mellor, EDW. HINDE.

Jany. 21st, 1831.

MELLOR CHURCH CRICKET CLUB, 1929.

Back row: Messrs. H. Taylor, H. Worden, J. Rawcliffe.
Middle row: Messrs. R. Holden, F. Margison, E Proctor, H. Howarth, Proctor, A. Blackburn,
Front row: Messrs. R. Helm, J. Croasdale, R. Baird, The Vicar, J. J. Kenyon, W. Emmett
H. Croasdale.

At the conclusion of Mr. Pigott's brief ministry, Dr. J. W. Whittaker invited the Rev. Thos. Lund, whose reply (given below) is of interest, not only on account of his view of his call,—"the heavenly vision," but also as illustrating that modified form of racial hatred between the South and the North which has persisted through the centuries, and even in these days of progress and rapid communication, has not become quite extinct. Traces of this feeling may be seen in the religious Press to-day when a Southern applicant for ministerial work adds the words, "Not North," or when a Southern minister, accepting a "cure of souls" in the North, refers to his sphere of labour (in the denominational newspapers) as "a Northern outpost!"

St. John's Coll., Camb.,

29 Apl., 1831.

My dear Sir,

Accept my sincere thanks for the offer to me of Mellor Church; I confess I have become attached to the University, so that I should not think of leaving it upon such prospects as those held out to me by your offer. I hold the Perpetual Curacy of Horningsea, which is considerably preferable to the one which you offer me, and I think I can steal sufficient time from my studies at Midsummer and Xmas each year, to keep up the interest which is desirable between my friends in Blackburn and myself.—I confess, too, that from the turn which public opinion has taken lately with respect to the representatives of the people in Parliament, particularly as it has been expressed at the public meetings held in Blackburn, I consider Blackburn of all places the least desirable for a continued residence. [!!—Nevertheless, I shall always most gratefully bear in mind your kind remembrance of me. We have been exceedingly busy here for a week or two in Election business . . . . .

Yours sincerely,

THOS. LUND.

The Rev. Christopher Clarkson, M.A. [1831—1833].

In the summer of 1831, Dr. J. W. Whittaker offered the Mellor living to the Rev. Christopher Clarkson, M.A., who accepted it, as the following letter shows:—

Blackburn, July 22nd, 1831.

My Lord Bishop,

After much and diligent search, I have appointed the Revd. Christopher Clarkson, son of the Historian of Richmond, to my very poor curacy of Mellor. He is an active and zealous man, fond of hard work, and a good preacher; and I have excellent hopes of his ministerial usefulness and becoming a favourite with his people. He is also, to a certain extent independent of his profession, a material point where the emoluments attending it are quite inadequate to support a minister.

He applied for my stipendiary curacy, which for diverse reasons I have not thought proper to give him. He is mortified by my decision on this occasion, but still more so on learning the annual produce of the Pew Rents. I confess I participate in his feelings here.

I had informed him that the Pew Rents had declined during the short time of Mr. Pigott's ministry, but I was not aware of the extent of that declension. It appears, however, that they have fallen off from £47 : 4 : 8, which we certified to the Board of the Q. Anne's Bounty, in April 1830 to £24.

This miserable pittance, together with the produce of £200 given by that Board, is actually the sole provision for the curate. And though I believe and expect that the Pew Rents will under Mr. Clarkson be more productive than before, Your Lordship will agree with me that the statement I have just made is one very dispiriting to a young man just entering on his preferment.

I have promised to exert myself to the utmost in obtaining some augmentation. And I now write to request Your Lordship's advice as to the steps which it would be wisest for me to take in that attempt. Does Your Lordship advise another application to the Bounty Board without first attempting to raise a sum by local

contributions? The Inhabitants of the Chapelry have (a long time since) engaged to enter into such a subscription, but plead the badness of the times as an excuse for postponing it. Neither can I learn from Mr. Hodgson what line of conduct the Board would adopt, provided such a subscription (of £200) toward a parsonage could be collected.

There are discouraging circumstances. And, not seeing my way clearly before me, I have concluded to do nothing rashly, or without first soliciting Your Lordship's advice. Possibly Your Lordship may be able to give me some hint of the intentions of the Board, which would facilitate my proceedings. For, without a reasonable prospect of material aid from that quarter, I almost despair of inducing the people of Mellor to come forward. And, to say the truth, their poverty is a very valid excuse for the want of liberality.

I remain, most respectfully,
My Lord Bishop,
Your Lordship's
most obedient & dutiful Servt.,
JOHN WM. WHITTAKER.

To the Lord Bishop of Chester,
Durham.

Ignoring the advice of Dr. Whittaker, viz.—"I think you will act very unwisely if you give them [the people whom he served at Mellor] reason to think that you never contemplated staying among them, but accepted the benefice as a means of obtaining a better,"—Mr. Clarkson resigned his position as minister after two years:—

The Rev. Dr. Whittaker,
Vicarage.

Dear Sir,

Having purchased the Advowson and next Presentation to a living in Suffolk of the value of £5 [£500] or £600 a year, with a prospect of very early possession, I beg leave to resign the Church of Mellor.

MELLOR CHURCH DRAMATIC SOCIETY, 1929.

Back Row: Messrs. H. Croasdale, W. Graham, E. Greenhalgh, Miss A. Beech, Messrs. T. Newbold, J. Hargreaves, J. Kenyon.

Seated: Mr. A. Blackburn, Mesdames F. Brown, F. Croasdale, B. Aspden, K. Croasdale, A. Croasdale, Mr. B. Peacock.

You will oblige me by informing me when I may consider myself at liberty to leave Blackburn, and whether it will be necessary to communicate with the Bishop on the subject.

With best respects to Mrs. Whittaker,

I remain, Dear Sir,
Yours truly,
CHR: CLARKSON.

Blackburn.
Augt. 19. 1833.

Extract from a letter from the Rev. H. W. McGrath, The Parsonage, Walton-le-Dale, to Dr. J. W. Whittaker:—

"Would it not be advisable to make it known in Mellor that Mr. K. [Mr. Kirkpatrick] would preach, as it would ensure some kind of congregation. Otherwise he would be preaching to empty walls, as I am informed."

"October 1. 1833."

Extract from a letter from Dr. J. W. Whittaker to Mr. Fowden Hindle:—

Vicarage, Oct. 4th. 1833.

My Dear Sir,

A clergyman named Kirkpatrick, to whom I have offered the chapelry of Mellor (being one of the two whom I mentioned to you) will take the Service at Mellor Church on Sunday afternoon. . . . The accounts which I have received of Mr. Kirkpatrick make me very desirous to secure his services in this Parish. As an active, zealous, faithful, and humble-minded minister of the gospel I believe he would be invaluable. . . . I now write to you, chiefly from a wish that his appearance among them [the congregation] on Sunday afternoon may be made known extensively in Mellor that he may not preach to empty benches. Will you have the good-

ness to take some measures for giving publicity to the circumstances? . . . . .

Believe me, My Dear Sir,
Yours very faithfully,
Jno. Wm. Whittaker.

To J. F. Hindle, Esqre.,
Woodfold Park.

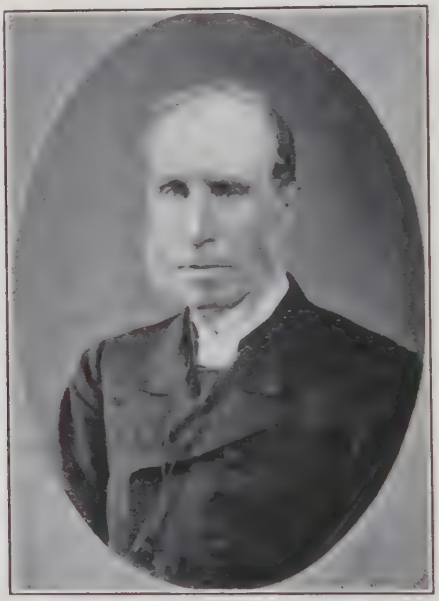
The Rev. Francis Kirkpatrick, B.A. [1833—1839].

The Rev. Francis Kirkpatrick, whose only son is the Rev. A. F. Kirkpatrick, D.D., formerly Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Cambridge, and now Dean of Ely, was born November 26, 1803. He was the eighth child and third son of Alexander Kirkpatrick and his wife, formerly Marianne Sutton, and was born in Dublin. Alexander Kirkpatrick was High Sheriff of County Dublin in 1798. Marianne Sutton was a daughter of Alderman George Sutton, who died in office as Lord Mayor of Dublin, in 1800.

The family was a younger branch of the Kirkpatricks of Closeburn, in Dumfriesshire. Their ancestors crossed over to Ireland at the end of the 17th century.

Francis Kirkpatrick was educated at Castleknock School, and Trinity College, Dublin, where he took the degree of B.A. He was ordained Deacon July 10, 1827, and licensed to the curacy of the united parishes of Clossgill and Kilshine in the county and diocese of Meath, of which his uncle, Mr. Sutton, was Rector. The Protestant population was less than 50, and he soon felt that he ought to seek a larger sphere of service. Owing, however, to his uncle's illness, he remained at Clossgill till 1833, when he received an invitation from Dr. J. W. Whittaker, Vicar of Blackburn, to pay him a visit, with a view to his appointment to the living of Mellor. He preached at Blackburn in the morning to a congregation of 2,000, and in the afternoon at Mellor. The offer of the incumbency was made and accepted, and Mr. Kirkpatrick began his work at Mellor on his 30th birthday, November 26th, 1833.

Nonconformity was strong, and, at that time, church-going Anglicanism was weak. The church, capable of seating 1,000 people, was often cold, having only one stove; and the communicants were few. On Christmas Day, 1833, there were only 17 communicants! Active and patient work began to bear fruit. On the first Sunday in August, there were 54 communicants.



REV. FRANCIS KIRKPATRICK, B.A.

(Vicar 1833-1839).

Father of the present Dean of Ely.

Mr. Kirkpatrick found a badly-built schoolhouse, with no teachers but the clerk and sexton, but, by August, the number of scholars had increased [200], and there were several teachers. About this time, Mr. Kirkpatrick was offered a living at Huddersfield, which, however, he declined. He remained at Mellor for nearly six years, considerably longer than any previous minister, and was greatly beloved by his people. In

1839, suffering from rather indifferent health, he resigned the Mellor living, and accepted a curacy at Churchtown, Garstang, where he remained until October, 1840, when he was appointed to the living of Tunstead.

In August, 1859, he writes: "Visited my dear people in Mellor, preached for the Schools, number of Scholars and Teachers fallen off; place much as when I left. Dear people presented me with Gill's Commentary."

He described Tunstead as "a parish with a population of 2,500, respectable, industrious, moral, thrifty, and to a great extent religious—a very bright instance of what a manufacturing population might be under fairly favourable circumstances."

There was no vicarage, but he secured a good furnished sitting-room and bedroom, with milk, coals, and attendance, for 10/- per week.

In April, 1843, he married Ann, daughter of William Cox, of Dorchester, Oxon., whom he had met while staying with relations at Bacup. After the birth of a daughter in 1845, Mrs. Kirkpatrick's health failed, and it became necessary to seek a milder climate. From 1846 to 1849, Mr. Kirkpatrick was in sole charge of South Malling, near Lewes, in Sussex, living in Lewes, where a second daughter, who died in infancy, and his only son, were born. Later, he was appointed by the Lord Chancellor to the living of West Hoakley, in Sussex, entering upon his duties there in 1850. It was a large, scattered country parish, at that time, seven miles from a railway station. There, his third daughter was born, and there he remained until 1872, when, feeling the work of his large parish beyond his strength, he resigned. During his incumbency the fine old parish church was restored (1868-9).

From 1872-1876, he lived at Bury St. Edmunds, making himself very useful by taking occasional duty in the neighbourhood. Mrs. Kirkpatrick died in 1874, and in 1876, Mr. Kirkpatrick, with his two daughters, went to live at Weston-super-Mare, where he died on February 3, 1884, in the 81st year of his age. He was buried, with his wife, in the cemetery at Bury St. Edmunds.

St. Mary's, Mellor, which has always belonged (like most of the churches of the district) to that school or section of Anglicanism known as "Low Church" or "Evangelical," was especially Evangelical in the days of Mr. Kirkpatrick, and later, in the days of Mr. Stowe. Mr. Kirkpatrick's faithful preaching of the Gospel brought him into conflict with Mr. J. Fowden Hindle, of Woodfold Park, who left this church, not as a result of ill-will (as he explained in a letter to Dr. Whittaker), but on account of "his [Mr. Kirkpatrick's] wild, and extravagant opinions on religious subjects."

On the resignation of Mr. Kirkpatrick, in 1839, Dr. Whittaker offered the living to the Rev. J. B. Phillips, Curate of Habergham Eaves, Burnley, who sought the advice of Mr. Kirkpatrick. The latter, fearing unsoundness of doctrine, afterwards wrote to Mr. Phillips saying, "If your doctrinal sentiments accord with those propounded in 'The Tracts for the Times,' I most candidly and solemnly express my conviction that the inculcation or the practical working of those views would be almost certain to disperse the present congregation, whilst it would neither commend itself to the dissenters, nor be calculated to arouse the careless." As these words were quoted in Mr. Phillip's reply to Dr. Whittaker, declining the invitation, the latter was infuriated by what he regarded as an interference with his prerogative, as the following extract from a letter written by Dr. Whittaker to Mr. Kirkpatrick shows:

"I will not submit with tameness to any usurpation of my ecclesiastical rights, still less will I be driven to an appearance of cordiality with one who has had the presumption to put a veto on my spiritual appointments." [Feb. 19, 1839].

THE REV. CHARLES ARNOLD, M.A. [1839—1840].

Mr. Arnold, of Birmingham, who succeeded Mr. Kirkpatrick as "Perpetual Curate" of Mellor, was the

father of a Darwen curate. Dr. Whittaker, in a letter to the Bishop of Chester, expressed his satisfaction at having, at last, found a suitable minister, who, he believed, would be permanent! Dr. Whittaker soon afterwards offered Mr. Arnold the additional living at Langho, and as time went on, some of his Mellor people began to feel that Langho was receiving an undue share of his ministrations. Mr. Arnold also appears to have disappointed his congregation somewhat by being a little less Evangelical than his predecessor, and by taking little or no interest in the Sunday School. His incumbency proved to be one of the many short incumbencies at Mellor.

After Mr. Arnold's departure, another interval without minister occurred, and like the interval immediately before his appointment, this period was naturally characterised by a growth of indifference, and a further declension in the work of the Church and Sunday School. So distressed was Mr. Thomas Counsell (the Elder), "Yeoman," of The Rann, who was a churchwarden and a pillar of the Established Church in his own neighbourhood, that he wrote to the Bishop of Chester a letter dated September 29, 1840, in which he said that the Church was still closed and the Sunday School nearly gone; that a few of the younger people attended divine service at Mellor Brook Chapel; that many had joined the Methodists again, and others were attending an Independent Meeting House, three-quarters of a mile from the Church; that Mr. Kirkpatrick, the loss of whom they lamented, had taken two services in Church and an evening meeting in the School each Sunday, and also week-night meetings in the School and in private houses, besides visiting and relieving the sick and poor.

He (the writer of the letter) was sixty-five years of age, he continued, and had been Overseer of the Town [*i.e.*, the township] nearly nineteen years, but never had he witnessed a Church and Sunday School so slighted and neglected for want of a Minister, while the Church itself was going fast to decay.

THE REV. JOHN MCGREGOR, B.A. [1841—1844].

At length, in October, 1840,—after a nine months' "interregnum," a successor to Mr. Arnold was appointed,—the Rev. John McGregor, a curate at Worsley, who intended to re-open the Church at Mellor on Christmas Day. Owing to his Incumbent's inability to find a successor as curate, Mr. McGregor was unable to be inducted until January, 1841.

Some light is thrown upon his views by the following extracts from letters to Dr. Whittaker:—

"The people here [Worsley] have been principally dissenters, and were we to place a clergyman among them whom they might dislike, it might be the means of driving them away to their schismatic conventicles [!]—at least for a time." [Dec. 10, 1840].

"I believe that I can safely say that I have selected a building which will be, in every respect, suitable and commodious enough for a Sunday School and Place of Worship in Ramsgreave. . . . ."

"The Independents, like the Jesuits of old, as well as of the present day, 'are turning the world of Ramsgreave and Mellor' . . . . 'upside down' to enrol both the parents and the children who belong to the Established Church, among their numbers: and so far does their impudence (I can use no milder term) lead them that they are now threatening to build a very handsome edifice on the top of Ramsgreave in connection with their voluntary destructive system and their Schismatic Conventicles in Blackburn -to be supplied from thence with half-fledged, half-taught, half-crazy, puerile Brownists: when the blind lead the blind, etc. . . . . And I shall not be guilty of Egotism, I hope, when I assert that I shall by these means, and supported by your instruction and co-operation, either at least cripple their efforts or drive the locusts entirely from our Coasts." [!!!]

Documents of some importance to the Incumbents of Mellor were issued, during this incumbency, by the Commissioners, *viz.*:—

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SCHOLARS, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MELLOR, 1929.

(1) "Instrument of Assignment of a Stipend to the Minister and Salary to the Clerk."—July 28, 1841.

(2) " 1842.

"August 27th. By Order in Council the Ecclesiastical Comrs. for England made an annual grant of £74 : 0 : 0 in augmentation of the Benefice of Mellor at the same time with several others in the parish of Blackburn."

In March, 1842, owing to the difficulty of filling a vacancy at Salesbury, and to the smallness of the stipend at Mellor, the Bishop of Chester suggested to Mr. McGregor that he might appoint him Curate at Salesbury during the vacancy, with the whole of the salary.

Mr. McGregor's interest in the Day School will be referred to later. Unfortunately for his plans, Mr. McGregor's labours were cut short by his death in the summer of 1844, at the early age of 33. A marble tablet to his memory was afterwards placed on the east wall of the church.

Mellor, Saturday Evening,
June 8th, 1844.

Rev. & dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that the Revd. J. McGregor departed this life at 7 o'clock, about five minutes before the return of his brother & myself from Blackburn.

I am, Revd. & dear Sir,
Your faithful Servant,
WILLIAM HARTLEY.

P.S.—Excuse the wax as I can find no black.

[To Dr. J. W. Whittaker.]

A Letter from an Applicant :—

Macclesfield,
June 15, 1844.

Revd. Sir,

As the incumbency of Mellor is vacant by the lamented death of Mr. McGregor, allow me to offer myself to your notice as his successor. Perhaps I am not

entirely unknown to you, having been Curate to Mr. Sharples in 1842 until a severe and lengthened illness obliged me to leave Blackburn and seek the restoration of my health in a warmer climate.

I have, Rev. Sir,
the honor to remain,
Yr most obt Servt
Robert Powell.

[To Dr. J. W. Whittaker.]

The Rev. John Watson. [1844—1851].

The next minister was the Rev. John Watson, a curate, of Turton, who was nominated by Dr. Whittaker, December 9, 1844, about six months after the death of the Rev. J. McGregor. At this period, the Church had fallen into disrepair, and Dr. Whittaker prepared a detailed description of the building and its requirements, a copy of which was sent to the Bishop of Chester.

The following extract from this statement may be of interest to readers:—

"Rural Deanery. Blackburn (West).
"Mellor.
"1848.

"This church was erected by the Commissrs. under the Acts of Parlt., &c., and consecrated in 1829. A district has since been assigned to it containing a population of 2,298, in the year 1842. It shortly after received an augmentation from the Ecclesiastical Commissrs. to £150. The church was built by Mr. Rickman, a beautiful structure in the Early English or Lancet style, accommodating about 1,000 persons. . . . . But the extreme destitution of the benefice up to its augmentation (which was 15 years after the consecration of the church) occasioned so rapid a succession of incumbents, that but little coherent system has been pursued in their ministry among the people. This has been a very sensible [real] disadvantage.

"Nothing faulty about the fabric or condition of this church can be ascribed to the Architect or those whom he employed. Nevertheless there are many defects:—but they have chiefly arisen from culpable negligence on the part of those interested or officially concerned in its consecration.

"Long before he had any authority as Rural Dean, the Vicar of Blackburn [Dr. Whittaker himself] used his influence to induce the several incumbents to attend to the several particulars above alluded to, the neglect of which has led to so much mischief, but in vain. The apprehension of expense and the poverty of the chapelry was the pretext for doing nothing. . . . . It was now dangerous for any person to tread on these floors, so complete was their decay [in the belfry, etc.]. And the alarm was the greater because interested builders, and others who wanted a job, pretended that the Church was suffering from *dry rot*, whereas there was not the least symptom of it. No person who had ever seen *dry rot* would have thought so, or would have said so unless with a purpose to deceive. And every person could see plain enough that it was a very *wet* rot. . . . ."

Although the question of a parsonage had been discussed repeatedly since the completion of the church in 1829, and a subscription had been raised for the purpose, no steps had been taken to carry out the work. It was apparently on account of his disappointment concerning the absence of a parsonage house, as well as for reasons of indifferent health, that Mr. Watson left Mellor for Gresford, N. Wales, and afterwards resigned the perpetual curacy of Mellor, in 1851.

THE REV. CHARLES GREENWAY, M.A. [1851—1852].

The next minister at St. Mary's was the Rev. Charles Greenway, M.A. He was nominated by the Vicar of Blackburn (Dr. J. W. Whittaker) on the 10th day of March, 1851. His incumbency was a very brief one, concluding in the following year, 1852, when he became Vicar of a church in Darwen.

The Rev. Henry Stowe. [1852—1864].

The Rev. Henry Stowe succeeded the Rev. Charles Greenway, in 1852, and continued to serve the people of St. Mary's, in spiritual things, for about twelve years,—longer than any former incumbent of Mellor.

Mr. Stowe, like Mr. Kirkpatrick, was a staunch Evangelical, and was greatly beloved, not only by his own people, but also by others beyond the borders of the

REV. HENRY STOWE.
(Vicar 1852-1864).

parish of Mellor. The writer, as a boy, has often heard Mr. Stowe spoken of with affection, as a sound and faithful preacher of the Gospel.

One of the outstanding events of Mr. Stowe's incumbency was the building of the Parsonage, at the cost of £716 15s. 4d.

It might be added that considerably more than this

amount has since been spent on repairing and enlarging the Vicarage.

In 1864, Mr. Stowe left Mellor, and was succeeded by the Rev. G. R. G. Pughe.

THE REV. GEORGE RICHARD GOULD PUGHE. [1864-1917].

The Rev. G. R. G. Pughe, whose incumbency was to prove the longest on record at Mellor,—nearly 53 years,—was a Welshman. He claimed descent from one, Gwyddno [c. 460-520], a prince of the hundred of Gwaelod, Pembrokeshire, which, like Ravenspur near the mouth of the Humber, has long since been submerged. Mr. Pughe's grandfather was the Rev. Richard Pughe, Rector of Llanfrothen. In after years, referring, with characteristic humour, to his early impressions of the County Palatine, Mr. Pughe said he thought it was about the last county in which he would like to live. He especially disliked the chimneys. Little did he think, in those days, that he would ever sit on the top stones of one of the finest Lancashire chimneys,—before their elevation!

The Rev. G. R. G. Pughe came to Blackburn in 1860. After being curate at St. Paul's, St. John's, and Holy Trinity, Darwen, he was appointed by the new Vicar of Blackburn, the Rev. J. Rushton, D.D., to the perpetual curacy of Mellor, on December 27, 1864,—afterwards becoming vicar. He was the tenth incumbent of Mellor, and it is a remarkable fact that all his nine predecessors had been appointed by one man,—the late Dr. J. W. Whittaker, Vicar of Blackburn.

At the time of Mr. Pughe's institution and induction, the Mellor living was worth about £130 per year, but at the present day it is valued at about £600. During his half-century at Mellor, Mr. Pughe naturally saw, and helped to bring about, many changes. In some ways, as in his dislike of what he regarded as extreme views on either hand, Mr. Pughe was typically Anglican,

but his Welsh ancestry and education directed his sympathies towards Celtic rather than Augustinian Christianity. He would proudly boast that the Church in Wales was older than that in England.

Having more respect for the rights of others in matters of belief than the late Mr. McGregor, he gradually won the affection of his congregation, and also of many people of other persuasions.

MISS NANCY HARGREAVES, OF MELLOR HOUSE (1807-1886).

A generous benefactress of the Church.
She gave £1,000 on trust, the interest to be devoted annually to the poor of Mellor at the discretion of the Vicar. Her brother, Mr. Henry Hargreaves (1808-1872), gave £5,000 towards the endowment of the living of Mellor.

In his early days at Mellor, Mr. Pughe called to see Mr. Henry Hargreaves, of Mellor House, who was considered to be a miser. To his great surprise, he discovered that Mr. Hargreaves was intending to bequeath

large sums of money to the church and benefice, to be applied after his own death and that of his surviving sister, Miss Nancy Hargreaves,—herself a generous benefactress of the Church,—whose portrait in oils may be seen in the Blackburn Art Gallery.

Mr. Hargreaves left £5,000 for the augmentation of the Mellor living. Miss Nancy Hargreaves, who died in 1886, aged 79, left £1,000 for the poor of Mellor. The stained-glass east window of St. Mary's, depicting the Crucifixion and events immediately before and after, is a Hargreaves memorial window, and was given by members of this family.

Mr. John Henry Hargreaves, late of Mellor House, is (the writer is informed) a relative of the late Mr. Henry Hargreaves.

The stained-glass windows on the south side of the church are in memory of the Dodgson family, while those on the north side commemorate the families of Thwaites of Troy, Fowden-Hindle and Gregory, and Howson.

St. Mary's underwent great interior alterations during Mr. Pughe's incumbency, chiefly during the restoration of 1807. In addition to the generous support of the church members and friends, St. Mary's has had many wealthy friends.

In 1871, Miss Thwaites, of West Bank, Blackburn (daughter of Mr. Thomas Thwaites, formerly a churchwarden of Blackburn Parish Church), and other ladies, collected a considerable sum for the improvement of the east end of the church, and they were supported in their efforts by Mr. William Harrison, of Samlesbury Hall.

On Christmas Day, 1878, took place the inauguration of the clock and the first peal of bells given by Mr. Daniel Thwaites, the Lord of the Manor, who also defrayed the cost of repairs to the belfry, the total cost being about £1,400.

The largest bell bore the inscription: "To the glory of God, and in remembrance of many mercies, this peal of eight bells was erected at the expense of Daniel

REV. G. R. G. PUGHE.
(Vicar of Mellor for 53 years, 1834-1917).

Thwaites, Esqre., the Lord of the Manor, and M.P. for Blackburn."

In 1897, a restoration of St. Mary's Church was carried out at a cost of £3,500, the work being done by Messrs. Hatch, of Lancaster; Messrs. Austin & Paley, of Lancaster, being the architects. The three old-fashioned stoves had already been replaced by a hot-water system, and the candles, by gas. The roofs were now carefully examined and repaired; the Hargreaves, Dodgson, and Thwaites (Troy) windows were protected by sheet-glass; the entrance was improved, a wooden screen being removed; the old "box" pews were replaced by modern ones—fine oak benches and choir stalls; and an iron safe for the registers was purchased.

A new organ, built by Mr. Edwin Smith of Blackburn, was presented to the church by Mrs. Yerburgh. On a brass plate is the following inscription: "To the glory of God. This organ was presented to the Church of St. Mary, Mellor, by Mrs. Yerburgh, of Woodfold Park, the Lady of the Manor, A.D. 1897."

The following description of the new organ, from *The Blackburn Times*, may be of interest to many readers:—

"The organ case is of quartered oak, with spotted metal speaking pipe front. The keys are of ivory, with overhanging upper manuals, and the key-fittings, stop-jambs, desks, etc., of polished walnut; the stop-knobs are of ebony with ivory faces and permanent lettering. The pedal keys are of oak, in oak frames. A few pipes from the old organ by Wren have been re-voiced and incorporated. The action to the pedal-organ, the swell-bass, the speaking front, and the choir draw-stops is tubular pneumatic."

The old font was replaced by a very beautiful marble font, in the south aisle, a copy of an ancient font to be seen in a church near Welshpool. It has an elaborately-carved oak cover, and was a gift of Mrs. W. Arthur Pughe, a ewer being the gift of Mr. W. A. Pughe.

During the alterations, the chancel was enlarged at the expense of the nave by a beautiful light oak chancel

screen and pulpit, richly and elaborately carved, given by Mrs. Daniel Thwaites, in memory of her husband. The following is the inscription : " In loving memory of Daniel Thwaites, of Woodfold Park, Lancashire, who died September 21st, 1888."

A lectern, in the form of a brass eagle, was given by Mr. Hoyle, in memory of his wife, and the fine oak panelling was presented by the Yerburgh family. A few years later, in 1902, Mrs. Yerburgh gave an acre of land for the extension of the churchyard. The beautiful lych-gate was a gift of Miss Thwaites of West Bank, Blackburn.

The Rev. G. R. G. Pughe was born at Golfa Hall, April 17, 1831. He married, July 5, 1859, at Mold, Miss Elizabeth Roberts Johnson, and they had seven children, *viz.*—

Laura Jane Elizabeth Pughe, afterwards wife of the Rev. Wm. Morgan, M.A.
George Richard Gould Pughe, Solicitor.
Philip Withy Johnson Pughe, who died in infancy.
Clara Maud Layton Pughe, afterwards wife of the Rev. A. T. Corfield.
Ada Genellen Pughe.
William Arthur Pughe, J.P.
Rev. Richard Dodgson Pughe, now Rector of Burbage, Leicestershire.

The Rev. G. R. G. and Mrs. Pughe were able to celebrate their golden wedding in 1909, but Mrs. Pughe died in the following year, aged 72.

In 1912, the Rev. G. R. G. Pughe, who had received tokens of regard on one or two earlier occasions, was presented with an illuminated address and a purse of £200 by his congregation and friends.

In December, 1914, Mr. Pughe celebrated his jubilee as Incumbent of Mellor. About Easter, 1917, he resigned his living at Mellor, owing to his advanced age [86], and to the fact that his youngest son who, for some time,

had been his curate, had now been offered an incumbency at Burbage, Leicestershire. Mr. Pughe and his youngest daughter accompanied the Rev. Rd. Pughe to Burbage, but after a few months (on October 17, 1917) he died. His body was brought to be laid to rest in Mellor Churchyard, and his funeral sermon was preached by his old friend, Dr. Rawstorne, Bishop of Whalley.

THE REV. FREDERICK GEORGE HARRIS, B.A. [1917—].

On the retirement of the Rev. G. R. G. Pughe, the Vicar of Blackburn (the Rev. Canon T. R. Sale, M.A.) offered the Mellor living to the Rev. F. G. Harris, B.A. (of Durham University), for nearly 20 years Vicar of Immanuel, Oswaldtwistle, who accepted the offer. Mr. Harris had, at Oswaldtwistle, succeeded the Rev. Bouldby Haslewood, son of the Rev. B. T. Haslewood, A.B., for about 47 years, Vicar of Ribchester. The new Vicar of Mellor was a curate at St. Alban's, Rochdale; at St. Peter's, Blackburn, and at St. Cuthbert's, Lytham, before going to Oswaldtwistle, where he was much esteemed.

Mr. Harris was appointed Vicar of Mellor on December 17, 1917.

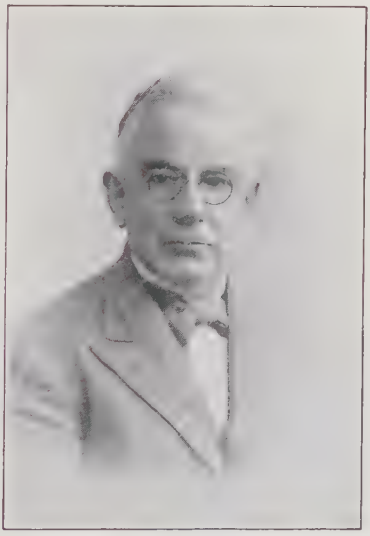
Although it must be somewhat difficult to succeed a man who has held an appointment for upwards of half-a-century, creating traditions and precedents, the Rev. F. G. Harris has proved himself equal to the task, and has won the respect and affection of his congregation.

Mr. Harris had married, in 1898, Miss Ethel Maude Briggs, a daughter of the late W. E. Briggs, Esq., of Buxton, sometime M.P. for Blackburn. Mrs. Harris took a great interest in the people of Mellor, but her health began to fail, and she died on Sunday morning, November 4, 1923.

THE PRESENT VICAR AND CHURCHWARDENS.

REV. F. G. HARRIS, B.A. (Vicar since 1917).

MR. HY. WHITTAKER.
(Vicar's Warden since 1927).
Member of the National Church Assembly since 1925.



MR. HAROLD COLLISON,
Headmaster, Mellor School (1927 to present time).
Vicar's Warden (1918-1927).
People's Warden (1927 to present time).

Memorial to the late Rev. G. R. G. Pughe.

The memorial to the late Rev. G. R. G. Pughe took the form of a new carved oak Communion Table, with linen and super-frontal. The memorial was dedicated by the Bishop of Whalley (Dr. A. G. Rawstorne),—a life-long friend and neighbour of Mr. Pughe. The Bishop preached from the text, " They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God " (Ps. lxxxiv., 7).

Mural Tablets at St. Mary's, Mellor.

The McGregor Tablet on the east wall has already been referred to.

On the east wall there is also a tablet to the memory of the late Mr. Daniel Thwaites, given by Mrs. Yerburgh, and her husband, the late Mr. R. A. Yerburgh.

On the north wall is the 1914-1918 Memorial Tablet.

A little to the right of the above, is another mural tablet to the memory of the late Mrs. Harris, wife of the present Vicar.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MELLOR. [Consecrated September 15, 1829].

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

	Name of Incumbent.	*Date of Appointment.*	*By whom appointed.*
1.	ROWLAND INGRAM, M.A.	Sep. 15, 1829	.....John William Whittaker, D.D., Vicar of Blackburn [1822-1854]
2.	GEORGE PIGOTT, M.A.	1830	..... Do.
3.	CHRISTOPHER CLARKSON, M.A.	July 30, 1831	..... Do.
4.	FRANCIS KIRKPATRICK, B.A.	Nov. 26, 1833	..... Do.
5.	CHARLES ARNOLD, M.A.	Sep. 4, 1839	..... Do.
6.	JOHN MCGREGOR, B.A.	Feb. 2, 1841	..... Do.
7.	JOHN WATSON	Dec. 9, 1844	..... Do.
8.	CHARLES GREENWAY, M.A.	Mar. 10, 1851	..... Do.
9.	HENRY STOWE	Feb. 2, 1852	..... Do.
10.	GEORGE RICHARD GOULD PUGHE	Dec. 27, 1864	.....J. Rushton, D.D., Vicar of Blackburn [1854-1868].
11.	FREDERICK GEORGE HARRIS, B.A.....	Dec. 17, 1917	.....Thomas Rawlinson Sale, M.A., Canon, Rural Dean, and Vicar of Blackburn.

D

LIST OF CHURCHWARDENS.

The following list of Churchwardens has been compiled from the records and memoranda available, but it is not certain that it is complete :—

MOULDEN FORREST, Stoops Fold.
THOMAS COUNSELL (the Elder), The Rann.
THOMAS EDDLESTON, Shackerley.
JOHN COUNSELL, Arley.
EDWARD COAR, Brundhurst.
NICHOLAS EDDLESTON, Whitecroft.
THOMAS COUNSELL (the Younger), The Rann.
JOHN SMITH, Mellor Lane.
JAMES SHORROCK, Barker Lane House.
JAMES WALTON (Schoolmaster).
JOHN COWBURN, Barker Lane.
JOSEPH S. POLLITT, Beardwood.
GEORGE BURY, Arley.
THOMAS ASPDEN, "Kirkside," Church Lane.
HAROLD COLLISON, "Ardenlee," Church Lane.
HENRY WHITTAKER, The Rann, and Billinge End.

LIST OF CLERKS.

EDWARD BLACKLEDGE. (Later,—a Policeman).
WILLIAM HOLDEN.
THOMAS PORKINGTON. (Schoolmaster).
JAMES EDDLESTON (The last Clerk at Mellor Church).

LIST OF SEXTONS.

LAWRENCE MARGERISON. [1829-1863].
JOSEPH PICKUP.
MRS. JOSEPH PICKUP. [For about two years after her husband's death].
GEORGE HAWORTH. [Over 20 years].
JOHN HOLDSWORTH.
JAMES CROASDALE.
ALBERT BLACKBURN.
LUKE BOYES.

List of Organists.

Mrs. Thomas Bury, of Roselands, Balderstone. Organist and Choir Leader for 33 years.
Mrs. Morgan (*née* Pughe). Organist for 1 year.
Mr. Holden, of Blackburn.
Mr. Lamb, of Blackburn.
Mr. Edward Ritchings.
Mr. F. Hoskin. (Now of Queen's Hall, Blackburn).
Mr. Harry Proctor.

Church and School Officials and Leaders, 1929.

(From the Parish Magazine, August, 1929.)

Vicar—Rev. F. G. Harris, B.A.
Catechist—Mr. H. Collison.
Churchwardens—Mr. Hy. Whittaker and Mr. Collison.
Sidesmen—Messrs. E. Whalley, J. W. Talbot, E. Kenyon, J. Rawlinson, W. Blackburn, Ernest Greenhalgh, W. Whalley, J. H. Hargreaves, James Pye, Wm. J. Parkinson, W. Halliwell, F. M. Peacock, J. Aspden, H. Taylor, E. Walton.
Diocesan Representatives—Mr. E. Kenyon and Miss Bottomley.
Ruri-Decanal Representatives—Mr. H. Taylor and Mr. W. J. Parkinson.
Parochial Levy Secretary—Mr. H. Collison.
Organist—Mr. H. Proctor.
Choirmaster—The Vicar.
Hon. Sec. Parish Magazine—Miss E. Coar.
Mothers' Union—The Vicar.
Sunday School Teachers—The Vicar, Mr. H. Collison, Mrs. J. Collinson, Mrs. Rd. Collinson, Miss Aspden, Miss E. Talbot, Miss L. Sharples, Miss Vida Croasdale, Miss Alice Holden, Miss F. Croasdale, Miss S. Pye, Miss Barton, Miss K. Croasdale.

School Managers—THE VICAR (Chairman), MESSRS. H. SMALLEY, PEACOCK, J. RAWLINSON, HY. WHITTAKER, and MISS BOTTOMLEY.

For Men's Class—Hon. Sec.: MR. J. DAVIES.

Magazine Distributors MISSES M. BLACKBURN, A. SHARPLES, E. TALBOT, M. VERNON, MRS. W. BLACKBURN, MRS. MATTINSON, MISSES N. KENYON, S. PYE, and A. GRAHAM.

Sexton—MR. LUKE BOYES, School House.

CHURCH SERVICES.

The Church is open Daily for Private Prayer and Meditation.

Holy Communion—1st Sunday in the month, at Noon; 3rd Sunday and Festivals according to notice.

Holy Baptism—Sundays, at 3-0 p.m.

Mattins—Sundays at 10-30 a.m., and *Evensong* at 6-30 p.m.

Churchings according to notice given to the Vicar; also requests for Prayers for the Sick, or for Thanksgivings.

Children's Service on the 4th Sunday in the month at 2-15 p.m.

All cases of sickness or requests for a visit should be made known to the Vicar without delay.

MELLOR CHURCH BELLS.

(CONTRIBUTED).

It was Christmas Eve, 1878, when the peal of eight bells given to Mellor Church by the Lord of the Manor, Mr. Daniel Thwaites, M.P., was first rung, and the inauguration service took place on Christmas Day of that year.

The bells, which were hemispherical in shape, were supplied by Messrs. Lund & Blockley, of 42, Pall Mall, London. Their total weight was 2½ tons. They were

REV. R. D. H. PUGHE.
Rector of Burbage, Leicestershire.
He assisted his father for some years as Curate of Mellor.

cast by Messrs. Warner & Co., of Jewin Crescent, London, and were pronounced by competent judges to be perfect in tune, reflecting the greatest credit upon the founders. They were in the key of B, and there were two hammers to each bell, the two largest weighing about 30lbs. each. The tenor bell, which weighed over 9¾cwt. when cast, turned out to be larger and heavier than originally intended, but of so grand a tone that it was decided to make all the rest correspondingly large. The tenor bell bore the following inscription: "To the Glory of God and in remembrance of many mercies this peal of eight bells was erected at the expense of Daniel Thwaites, Esq., the Lord of the Manor and M.P. for Blackburn, 1878."

These bells were rung by means of a carrillon machine, which in late years was constantly out of order and quite unfitted to perform its task. The Church Council, therefore, in the year 1923, decided to take expert advice, and after receiving reports of three of the largest and best known firms of bellfounders in this country, agreed to embark upon the task of installing a new peal of eight bells. All the experts were agreed that the carillon machine which was installed 45 years before was worn out, and that the work of bell-making and tuning had made such great advances during that time, that it was thought better to have a new peal of bells than to endeavour to reconstruct the old machinery. After carefully considering several tenders, the Church Council entrusted Messrs. John Taylor & Sons, of Loughborough, the well-known bellfounders, with the work, and deputed two of their members, Messrs. Harold Collison and Henry Whittaker, to visit the firm's works at Loughborough and report on the best size of tenor bell for Mellor Church. The deputation during that visit saw bells in the process of being cast and tuned, and after hearing various peals of bells of varying size, recommended the council to instal as heavy a peal as the church tower could carry. A peal was accordingly ordered with the tenor bell weighing just over one ton, and the remaining bells in proportion.

Many of the bells of the new peal were to be memorial bells, and as the scheme progressed it was decided to have a peal of ten bells instead of eight, which was the largest peal the church tower could take. The total cost of the full peal was £1,136. The metal of the old bells was melted down and used in recasting the new bells. Whereas the old peal only weighed 2½ tons, the new peal weighs 3¾ tons. The bells, which are in the key of E flat, are of the fixed type, not swinging, and can be played by any person seated at a keyboard, or clavier. The clavier has a wire connection to the hammer of each bell. A person can play any tune within the compass of the bells, and the variety of changes which can be rung is almost unbelievable, numbering, as they do, over three millions. As is usual in fixed bells of this type, the hammers strike on the inside of the bell, but the volume of sound is not as great as is obtained from a swinging bell.

In addition to the bells, the Church Council at the same time ordered a new clock for the church from Messrs. J. Potts & Sons, of Leeds, at a cost of £285. This clock was placed on the tower in 1924.

The largest bell (the tenor bell), which is in E flat, bears the following inscription: "To the Glory of God, and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Thwaites, this bell is the gift of the Lady of the Manor, A.D. 1923.

"When I do call,
Come serve God all."

The name of the Vicar (Rev. F. G. Harris) is also inscribed, together with the names of the churchwardens, Messrs. T. Aspden and H. Collison.

The next bell (D flat) is inscribed: "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of R. A. Yerburgh, D.L., M.P. This bell is the gift of his widow. A.D. 1924.

"The Lord to praise my voice I raise."

The next bell (in G) is the gift of the Sunday School,

the Men's Bible Class, and the Mellor Branch of the Mothers' Union, and bears the inscription:

"Our voices shall with joyful sound
Make hill and valleys echo round."

The bell in F is another memorial bell, and is inscribed: "To the Glory of God. This bell is the gift of Thomasina Irving in affectionate remembrance of her husband, James John Lancaster Irving, A.D. 1917, and also of her sister-in-law, Margaret Irving, A.D. 1918.

"God's in His heaven, all's well with the world."

The bell in B flat is the gift of the farmers of Mellor and district, and is inscribed with the following lines:—

"The Church's praise I sound always."

The bell in A flat bears the following inscription:—"To the Glory of God. This bell was presented by Colonel Sir John Rutherford, Bart., of Beardwood, Blackburn, as a memento of his long association with this Church and his long representation of his Division in Parliament. May God bless all."

The bell in C is another memorial bell, given by their children, and inscribed: "To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Henry and Ellen Whittaker, of The Rann, Mellor. Te Deum Laudamus."

The bell in D, also a memorial bell, is inscribed: "To the Glory of God, and in memory of Alfred and Rebecca Bottomley. Fideli certe merces."

The bell in E flat is in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Higson, the inscription being: "To the Glory of God, and in memory of father and mother, from their son Frank Higson."

The bell in F (upper) was given by the parishioners of Mellor and friends, "In loving memory of Ethel Maude Harris," the wife of the present Vicar,

who passed away only a few months before. "She hath done what she could," are the closing words of the inscription on this bell. Mrs. Harris had from the commencement taken a great interest in the development of the bell scheme, and it was a melancholy, but fitting, duty to hang that last bell in memory of her.

The dedication and opening ceremony took place at a special service held on Thursday evening, the 22nd day of May, 1924, when the Rev. W. Harston Morris, M.A., a former Vicar of Balderstone, preached the sermon.

Special services were continued the Sunday following. In the evening, the President of the Bell Ringers' Association (Canon Elsee, of Bolton) occupied the pulpit. An expert ringer of bells, Mr. H. Withers, of Bourneville, near Birmingham, where there is a similar peal of bells, gave a demonstration after divine services on Thursday and Sunday evenings, and also on Saturday from 3-0 to 4-0 in the afternoon, and on the Friday and Saturday evenings. His services were much appreciated by the people of Mellor and district.

CHURCH AND VILLAGE RECREATIONS.
(Contributed).

Mellor Church Men's Institute.

This young men's branch of the Church work began in the year 1905, in one of the smaller rooms in the School, a quarter-size billiard table being its chief attraction. In 1913, when an additional classroom was added to the School, a two-storey building was erected and the upper room was utilised as a Church Institute. It has a membership of about 40.

Mr. Hy. Whittaker, the President, has presented a Silver Challenge Cup to be competed for each year at Billiards.

The present handsome Billiard Table and all accessories were a present from Mrs. Yerburgh in the year 1927.

In the Institute are framed photographs of the famous collection of silver, copper, and canary lustre ware owned up to his death by the late Mr. William Ward, of The Kennels, Mellor.

MELLOR CHURCH CRICKET CLUB.

Mellor Church Cricket Club was founded in the year 1928, after the purchase of the land behind the Schools and Vicarage for playing-fields. The Club, shortly after its formation, joined the Sunday School League and finished the 1928 season with the second place in the League. The Captain (1929) is Mr. James Proctor, the Hon. Secretary is Mr. T. Holden, and the Assistant Secretary, Mr. John Kenyon.

MELLOR CHURCH DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The Mellor Church Dramatic Society was founded in the year 1927, and produced "Nothing but the Truth," in Mellor School, in 1927, which was a great success. In 1928 the Society produced "All-of-a-sudden Peggy." The members are producing, in connection with the Centenary Celebrations, a one-act play, entitled "The Wrong Box," and are giving a public play, entitled "All the Town's Talking," during the winter 1929-30. Miss Betty Aspden is Honorary Secretary.

MELLOR CHURCH PLAYING FIELDS.

The Church Council purchased, in the year 1927, one-and-a-half acres of land behind the Schools and Vicarage at a cost of £1000, raised by public subscriptions and other efforts, to provide Playing Fields and preserve the amenities of the Vicarage and Schools.

THE BLACKBURN, MELLOR & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY of to-day has grown out of the Mellor Village Festival which was first held on Saturday, 12th June, 1920. During the following year, in 1921, a small local Show was added, consisting of 34 classes, and about £40

in prizes was given. This side of the Festival grew larger each year,—53 classes in 1922, 73 classes in 1923. In 1924, a Mellor & District Agricultural Society was formed, and an independent Show held on Saturday, 14th June. This became an annual event, and in the year 1927 the name was altered to "Blackburn, Mellor & District Agricultural Society." The prize money in 1928 was £450.

Mellor Recreation Club.

This Club began about 45 years ago when the late Mr. R. A. Yerburgh laid down a cricket pitch 40 yards square on a four-acre field at the corner of Church Lane and Whitecroft, Mellor. Here the Mellor Cricket Club with its grandstand and dressing-tents prospered for many years.

A short time after its formation, the older men suggested that a bowling green would be a useful acquisition. On hearing of this, Mr. Yerburgh at once gave orders for a crown bowling green, 40 yards square, to be laid and enclosed by a privet hedge, which he presented to the village, a Recreation Room and about 20 pairs of woods also being provided.

In the winter months a village football team was organised, and many a tough fight has been waged on the football ground.

When the young men of the village ceased to take a practical interest in cricket after winning the championship of the League, the cricket pitch was not used for a season or two, and then it was converted into tennis courts. To-day there are in the Recreation Club a Bowling Section, a Tennis Section, and both Cricket and Football are also played.

The Recreation Club has always had a staunch supporter in its President, H. Smalley, Esq.

Mellor Women's Institute.

There is a flourishing branch of the Women's Institute at Mellor with 55 members. It was founded by Mrs. Harold Eccles, of Sykes Holt, Balderstone, the late Mrs. F. G. Harris and Mrs Hy. Smalley, and was one of the

first to be started in Lancashire. Miss Smalley and Miss Betty Smalley were presidents of the Branch respectively for many years. The present officers are: President, Mrs. R. A. Yerburgh; Hon. Secretary, Miss Bottomley; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Hy. Whittaker.

MELLOR, BALDERSTONE AND SAMLESBURY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The Mellor and Balderstone Nursing Association was formed a few years ago to provide the services of a nurse for the people of Mellor. Latterly the Association has been merged in the Mellor, Balderstone and Samlesbury Nursing Association. The Association employ the full-time services of a nurse who is provided with a car. The Chairman is Mr. Hy. Smalley, J.P., the Treasurer Mr. Harold Collison, and the Hon. Secretary Mr. J. Parker

CHAPTER 5.

MELLOR DAY AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

"*Precept upon precept, line upon line.*"—Is. xxviii., 10.

In the widest sense, Education is as old as man. The parents were, and are, the first teachers, then the prophets, and then the schoolmasters. The usual order has been : The hearth, the pulpit, the desk.

Although the need for universal education, in the special sense, has not long been felt, schools of some kind may be traced back even to the Ancients. In these islands, for many centuries, even "the three R's" were so despised by all save the clergy or "clerks" (including the lawyers), that many men, the more adventurous spirits,—were content to learn nothing but Psalm li., 1 (their "neck-verse"), to repeat in case of emergency in order to prove that they were "clerks" or scholars, and thereby escape the gallows!

In early days, there were cathedral and cloister schools, and later, especially after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, grammar schools were founded and endowed in most of the important English towns. Latin and Greek were the principal subjects taught, and grammar schools were largely places of preparation for the universities.

One of the greatest landmarks in the history of schools was the founding of the modern Sunday School by Robert Raikes, in 1780. This great institution led to an increasing knowledge of the Bible, and to the teaching of reading, and often of writing, also.

In 1808, the British and Foreign School Society was founded by Joseph Fox and William Corston, inspired by the work of Joseph Lancaster. They were soon joined by John Jackson, M.P., Joseph Foster, and William Allen. Fox and Allen were the real leaders of the movement, the object of which was to provide for unsectarian religious and general education. The efforts of the Society met with much success in this country, on the Continent, in India, in Australia, and in America. With the advent of the Board Schools in 1870, the need for the "British Schools" largely disappeared.

In 1811, another educational society was formed,—"The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales."

As the British Society grew out of the labours of Joseph Lancaster, so the National Society grew out of the labours of Dr. Bell. The schools which received building grants from the Society were known as "National Schools."

In addition to the "British" and "National" schools, there continued to be many "Dame" schools and other private schools "kept" by people of various occupations and qualifications!

At Mellor, about the middle of last century, near the cross-roads at the top of Abbott Brow, Mr. Abraham Fenton, shopkeeper, had a small "school" in his house, consisting of about "6 or 8 scholars."

At one time there was a more important school or "college" at Ravenswing, Church Lane, Mellor, and it is interesting to note that several farms and houses in the neighbourhood of Mellor Brook still bear the name "College."

Ravenswing College had its badge or "coat-of-arms," containing a raven; a "crest," consisting of a wing; and a motto: "Deo non fortuna" [From God, not chance]. Its masters were graduates, Mr. R. Stenson Pringle, Ph.D., M.R.C.P., and Mr. William Stewart, M.A.

MELLOR CHURCH SCHOOLS, 1929.

A rather noted private school in this district, in the mid-nineteenth century, was Mr. Hartley's School in Commons' Lane, Balderstone ("The Old Vicarage"). Some of the older boys from neighbouring parishes attended that school.

The first Church school at Mellor was built about 1831-1833. It was opposite the Church, with a gable end towards the road, and the door on the north side. In Mr. Kirkpatrick's time the School was enlarged. As many children were sent to work at an early age in those days, it is perhaps not surprising to find the number of children attending the Day School considerably smaller than the number attending the Sunday School, as the following reports show:—

Report of the Numbers of Children at MELLOR SUNDAY SCHOOL *from Easter Day*, 1831, *to Easter Day*, 1832, *inclusive*—

	No. on books during year.	*Maximum attendance.*	*Average attendance.*
Girls	121	 160	 100
Boys	122		
Total ...	—	—	—

. . . . Superintendent.
CHR: CLARKSON, Minister.

1835-1836. MELLOR SUNDAY SCHOOL.

	No. on books during year.	*Maximum attendance.*	*Average attendance.*
Boys	135	 130	 108
Girls	161	 152	 129
Total ...	296	282	237

FRANCIS KIRKPATRICK. Superintendent, and Minister.

1835-1836. Mellor Day School.

	No. on books during year.	*Maximum attendance.*	*Average attendance.*
Girls } Boys }	76	66	50
Total	76	66	50

The above is certified to be a true Report.

John Wilkinson. Superintendent.
Francis Kirkpatrick. Minister.

1842-1843. Mellor Sunday School.

	No. on books during year.	*Maximum attendance.*	*Average attendance.*
Boys	240	180	126
Girls	230	174	112
Total	470	354	238

John McGregor. Minister.
John Cook. Superintendent.

1842-1843. Mellor Day School.

	No. on books during year.	*Maximum attendance.*	*Average attendance.*
Boys	37	37	30
Girls	18	18	15
Total	55	55	45

The above is certified to be a true Report.

John McGregor. Minister.
John Cook. Superintendent.

Abstract of the Cash Account of Mellor National and Sunday Schools, from January, 1835, to July, 1836, inclusive:—

By Cash received.	£	s.	d.
By Balance in hands from last year	0	8	8½
By Donation to Forresters' Club	1	0	0
By Collections after Sermons on August 23, 1835	12	3	4
By Annual Subscriptions	15	10	8½
By a Fine received from J. F. Hindle, Esq.	0	10	0
Balance due to Secretary	0	12	1½
	£30	4	10½

By Cash paid.	£	s.	d.
Rimmer's Account for two Stoves, piping, and putting up	5	5	0
Walsh, the joiner's Account for furnishing School Rooms (in Part *)	10	0	0
To the Secretary of the Blackburn Association for Promoting Christian Knowledge, for Bibles, Testaments, and sundry Books for the use of the School	2	19	10½
Morrice's Account for Register Book, printing Hymns, and Stationery	2	15	6
Walkden's Account for printing Bills for Sermons, and sundry Stationery	0	18	1
Coates' Bill for Masonry work	0	14	6
Donations to the Superintendents of Sunday Schools	2	0	0
Coals for the use of the School (two years)...	2	0	4½
Sundries for the use of the National School	1	17	2½
For Painting, Whitewashing, Repairing Windows, and Cleaning School-Rooms	1	14	4
	£30	4	10½

* A Balance of the Joiner's Account still remains unpaid.

Signed, FRANCIS KIRKPATRICK, Secretary.
JOHN WARD, Treasurer.

Morrice, Printer, Market-Place, Blackburn.

REV. G. R. G. PUGHE AND MRS. PUGHE ON THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING DAY.

Mrs. Pughe was a member of the Choir for over 30 years and for the greater part of that time she was Choirmaster. She was succeeded by her daughter, Miss Laura Pughe, who was choirmaster until her marriage to the Rev. W. Morgan, M.A.

The following is a copy of a Letter from the Rev. John McGregor to Dr. J. W. Whittaker, concerning the Day School at Mellor.

Mellor, October 21st, 1843.

My dear Sir,

I am sorry to inform you that, in consequence of the diminished number of day Scholars in our National School here and the difficulty experienced by the Schoolmaster in obtaining remuneration from the parents for his labour, I shall be under the necessity of allowing him to discontinue his services and close the School during the Winter months, if some means cannot be adopted to prevent it. He has taught now for a long time, and cannot any longer maintain himself. I have done all in *my power* to retain him and to get him pupils, but when he earns nothing for his pains it is most disheartening to myself and him.

The Dissenters in Mellor have employed a married couple to teach not only their own, but the Children of Churchmen,—Reading, Writing, Sewing, and Knitting, etc., and certainly their labours have, so far, been crowned with success—their School is crowded. In Ramsgreave the Brownists have a teacher twice a week from Blackburn to instruct their Children: and what is most galling, they manage to congregate a considerable number of pupils, because they *charge nothing!* All these things are against me.

If, therefore, you can devise some means to obviate these difficulties—trying to me in the extreme—I shall be most happy to abide by your decision and to use every exertion to carry out the plans you may chalk out for my guidance. I am determined never to take any rash step without consulting you, as I feel in duty bound to do,—and I shall be ready to await your call any day to appear at the Vicarage for an interview.

Believe me to be,
My dear Sir,
Yours very faithfully,
JOHN MCGREGOR.

The Rev. Dr. Whittaker, &c., &c.

Two important landmarks in the history of elementary education in this country were 1833, when Government grants were first made, and 1870, when the Government accepted the responsibility of educating the people.

During the incumbency of Mr. Pughe, Mellor School was restored at a cost of about £200. One Monday evening, in August, 1881, the roof of the school fell in with a terrible crash, but, fortunately, no one was hurt.

It was now decided to build a new school, opposite the church, and the foundation-stone was laid on Saturday, March 17, 1882, by Mr. Daniel Thwaites, Lord of the Manor. The new National School was completed by the end of the year, and opened by Mr. Daniel Thwaites on New Year's Day, 1883. The total cost of the school was over £2,200, and towards this amount, Mr. Daniel Thwaites subscribed £500.

The new school was opened for educational purposes on January 8, 1883.

In 1913, the school was enlarged, at a cost of £1,200. The extension included one large classroom, and a room for the use of the Church Institute.

Two of the Mellor Schoolmasters, before 1870, were Mr. Eddleston and Mr. Monk.

The following is a LIST OF THE SCHOOLMASTERS of Mellor National School from 1870 onwards,—under Government Inspection :—

1870. MR. JAMES WALTON. [1852-1872].

1872. MR. JOHN WALKDEN.—70 on books.
Left Mellor, Oct. 30, 1874, to take headship of St. Silas' Boys' School, Liverpool.

1875. MR. WILLIAM DUXBURY, of Darwen. (Jan. 4).
Miss Wade, a pupil-teacher. (May 1).
Av. attendance : 88.5.
Mr. Duxbury left when the New School was opened. He subsequently went to Australia, where he died only a few months ago.

MR. JAMES WALTON.

(1822-1907).

(Master of Mellor School from 1852 to 1872).

MR. WILLIAM DUXBURY.

Master of Mellor School from 1875 to 1883.

MR. JOHN WALKDEN.

(1851-1907).

Master of Mellor School.
First Period (1870-1872).
Second Period (1892-1907).

1883. Mr. William Simm, of Balderstone. (Sep. 29, 1883).
Miss Hughes, of Wales, an assistant mistress. (Jan. 5, 1885).
Av. attendance, Nov. 13, 1885 : 97.5.
Mr. Simm left, June 11, 1886.

1886. Mr. E. P. Reed.
Attendance, May 13, 1887 : 106.
Mr. Reed left, Sep. 7, 1888.

1888. Mr. Andrew Bury.
Miss Walker,—assistant mistress.
Mr. Bury left, Oct. 27, 1892.

1892. Mr. John Walkden.
Returned from Liverpool.
Miss Walton,—assistant mistress, Aug. 19, 1895.

1907. Mr. H. Collison. (April).

Reports.

The following is an extract from the Inspector's Report on Religious Instruction, in 1873.

[Headmaster : Mr. J. Walkden.]

"The children here are carefully taught, and have made great progress in knowledge of the Bible. They have learned a large number of Collects by heart, as well as Hymns." . . . .

Government Inspector's Report, 1874.

[Headmaster : Mr. J. Walkden.]

"This new school, open less than a year, has made a highly promising start. Discipline is excellent, and attainments extremely accurate. The buildings and their fixtures are satisfactory."

The Present Headmaster, Mr. H. Collison.

The present Headmaster,—who is assisted by Miss A. Whittaker, of Chorley, Miss B. Aspden (Mellor), and Miss C. Whittle, of Preston,—was appointed in 1907. The influence of his energetic personality pervades the

whole school. As a teacher of the young, he keeps up-to-date in a rapidly-moving educational world, and to the excellence of the teaching of the usual school subjects, he adds more than ordinary skill in the teaching of Handwork of many kinds, for which he has received special training. Mr. Collison has been Vicar's Warden, and is now People's Warden at St. Mary's Church. He is also a Licensed Lay Reader, and occasionally acts as Deputy Organist. He has a fine Men's Bible Class on Sunday afternoons, and he takes a great interest in the recreative and social activities of the Church, and of the Village.

Board of Education Report on Mellor C.E. School.

[From Mellor Parish Magazine, February, 1921].

"This is a good country School. The work reaches a satisfactory standard, and reflects credit on the Headmaster and his Staff.

"Nineteen scholars are at present attending various Higher Grade Schools in the district, yet, in spite of this depletion, the number reaching the highest class has increased by a systematic promotion of the brighter scholars. The practical part of the instruction has received attention, but owing to lack of materials, etc., has been difficult to carry on successfully. The provision of a practical workroom for both boys and girls would be a boon.

"The Infants are managed in a kindly and sympathetic manner."

"(Signed) J. THOMAS, H.M.I."

ST. MARY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The number of Sunday School scholars and members of the Bible Classes is about 80 men and boys and 60 women and girls.

A list of the Sunday School superintendents and teachers is given in Chapter 4,—from the Parish Magazine.

A group photograph of St. Mary's Sunday School is being included here.

CHAPTER 6.

OLD MELLOR FAMILIES AND HOUSES

"Eve was my mother, Adam was my sire,
Can Guelf or Ghibelline go higher,
Or can Bourbon, or Nassau?"

Introductory Note—

(*a*) On a future occasion, in a larger work on the geography and history of Mellor, it may be possible to give a more detailed account of the older Mellor families, with pedigrees of those families whose living representatives express a desire to have their genealogies so recorded.

(*b*) *Spelling of Names.*—A study of parish registers, wills, deeds, inquisitions, and other old documents, soon reveals the fact that our forefathers paid little attention to spelling. A family-name or place-name was sometimes spelt in several different ways even in one document, while a person who could write sometimes spelt his own name in different ways on different occasions.

Besides the manorial families to whom reference has been made in Chapter 2, the following are, or were, old Mellor families:—

Abbot or Abbott, of Abbott House or Mellor Hall.

The Abbots or Abbotts, of Abbot or Abbott House, or Mellor Hall, like several of the other old Mellor families, were prominent for about two centuries, or about half-a-dozen generations.

Thomas Abbot, of Mellor, clerk, son of George, son of John, was curate of Walton and Samlesbury "chapels," and a governor of Blackburn Grammar School, in Stuart days. At his death, he was registered at Blackburn Parish Church as "Thomas Abbot of Mellor, clerk, buried in linnen." A later member of the family was enrolled as a freeman of Preston, at the 1742 Guild.

Mellor Hall or Abbott House is an ancient building of the Tudor period. In earlier days it had an antique porch and gabled wings. The internal walls were of "raddle and daub," supported by upright posts and cross-beams, reaching from wall to wall. A spiral stone staircase led to the upper storey. The floor of the room over the hall was of "raddles" and yellow clay, about a foot thick. A part of the south-west corner of this room was partitioned off, and known as the "Priest's Room." This was probably the hiding-place for one of the missionary priests when Mellor Hall was occupied by a younger branch of the Southworths of Samlesbury. Tradition says that the last Southworth owner of the hall squandered his money, and was ultimately compelled to beg for bread. A large flat stone was formerly pointed out, upon which the old man used to sit lamenting:

> "When I was young, and in my prime,
> All these fields down here were mine;
> But now, I'm old, and grown so poor,
> I'm forced to beg from door to door."

Anderton, of Anderton's.

The Andertons came to Mellor from Samlesbury. Henry Anderton purchased "Land and Mosse growndes" in Mellor, in early Stuart times [1622], from Thomas Southworth.

In 1654, the Exors. of Henry Anderton "leased" "Land and Mosse ground" to George Haydocke of Mellor. The name of this family is still preserved in "Anderton House," near The Rann.

Aspden or Aspeden, of Arley.

The Aspdens (or Aspedens) had small estates in Pleasington, and at Arley or Arleys, in Mellor. In the time of Henry VIII, a dispute occurred between Robert Aspden of Arley (probably son of Richard Aspden of Pleasington) and Peter Stanley, concerning the titles to certain lands in "Mellour." Either this Robert, or a later one, had several other disputes concerning rights-of-way. "James Aspden of Areleys, gent." is mentioned in records of the Elizabethan period.

[Authority: Abram.]

The Aspdens of Arley are probably represented to-day by the families of the late Mr. Thomas Aspden, of "Kirkside," Church Lane, and of Mr. Richard Aspden, of Lower Brundhurst Farm.

Astley, of Mellor.

The Astleys of Mellor were a branch of the Astleys of Stakes Hall, Livesey, who, in turn, were descendants of the Astleys of Astley, near Manchester. They were a well-known family in Mellor in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. [Authority: Abram.]

Birley or Berley, of Birley Fold.

The Birleys of Birley Fold (now often grouped with its neighbour, and called "Haydock Fold") appear to have been a younger branch of a well-known family. Among the old deeds examined by the writer, there is a reference to "Lawrence Haydocke and John Berley tenement" [1668], and the Ordnance Map still preserves the name "Birley Fold."

Birley Fold is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Adam Bolton and her family. For some years it was the home of the late Mr. Jabez Whalley, whose aged widow lives at Wilpshire, and later, of Mrs. Thos. Ainsworth [D. 1916] (née Hoyle), late of Showley, and formerly of Little Harwood Hall.

Blackburn.

The family of Blackburn, now of Mellor, formerly lived in Billington. Some centuries ago, a family of

this name held land at Showley, in Clayton-le-Dale. Richley Blackburn (son of John, son of William), who was a great worker for Mellor Church for many years, married Mary Jane Duckworth and had ten children, one of whom is Mr. Albert Blackburn, the present Registrar of Births and Deaths of the Mellor group of Parishes, and another is Mr. Wm. Blackburn, one of the Sidesmen of Mellor Church. Two of his daughters married sons of Thomas S. Ainsworth, of Showley, Clayton-le-Dale.

MRS. M. WALMSLEY.

Teacher in Sunday School for 25 years. A member of the Choir for 31 years.

Bolton, of Mellor.

Thomas Bolton, who lived in the eighteenth century, was a calico printer, near Heywood. He had a son Robert Bolton, a calico printer, of Great Harwood, who married Alice Walsh. Their son was the late Mr. Thomas Bolton, of Church Lane, Mellor, who was also a calico printer. He married Sarah, daughter of Mr. John Tattersall, and their three children were: Alice, afterwards Mrs. James Smith, of Great Harwood;

MR. TOM BURY.
A member of the Choir for 30 years.

MRS. ANN BURY.
Organist for 33 years

MR. GEORGE BURY.
Chuchwarden for six years. A member of the Choir for 20 years.

MR. ISAAC BURY.
A member of the Choir for 25 years.

Margaret, afterwards Mrs. Walmsley, a teacher in St. Mary's Sunday School for twenty-five years, and a member of the Choir for thirty-one years; and Elizabeth Ann, afterwards Mrs. James Collinson.

The family of Bolton, of Birley Fold and Haydock Fold, lived in Clayton-le-Dale until a few years ago.

Bury, of Mellor and Balderstone.

One of the best-known families of Mellor and Balderstone is that of Bury. The family had for many years the Arley Nurseries. During the incumbency of the Rev. G. R. G. Pughe, three members of the family—brothers—were prominent church-workers, namely: the late Mr. Isaac Bury, a member of the Choir for twenty-five years; Mr. George Bury, of Arley, a Churchwarden at Mellor Church, and a member of the Choir for over twenty years; and Mr. Thomas Bury, of Roselands, Balderstone, formerly of Arley, a member of the Choir for thirty years. Mr. Thomas Bury is a keen student of geology, a subject which he and the writer used to discuss together. He married Miss Ann Coar, sister of Mrs. James Walton, and daughter of the late Mr. John Coar. She was Organist at Mellor Church from 1860 to 1893.

Clayton, of Little Harwood and Shorrock Green.

The Claytons of Shorrock Green were a branch of the Claytons of Little Harwood Hall, who lived in Mellor in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Coar, of Brundhurst.

The Coars of Brundhurst, a little over a hundred years ago, farmed at Oxendale Hall. Edward Coar left Oxendale and came to Brundhurst, about the year 1818. His wife was Jane Lund, daughter of a farmer in the Fylde, who afterwards lived at, or near, Salesbury. Their eldest daughter married J. Ward, and lived at Ravenswing. Their only son, John Coar, married Alice, daughter of James Eddleston, of Witton. John Coar died in 1864, aged 78. His eldest son was the late

Mr. Edward Coar, who farmed at Brundhurst, afterwards removing to Coppice, Samlesbury, where he died on September 14, 1914, at the advanced age of 98 years! His sister, Margaret, married Mr. William Cranshaw, of Westmorland, and they had two sons, the Rev. Frederick Edward Cranshaw and the Rev. Wm. Brunt Cranshaw. Another member of this family was the late Mr. James Coar, who, for many years, farmed at Brundhurst. Mr. Ralph Coar is one of his sons.

Coar, of Mellor Brow.

James Coar, of Mellor Brow, lived in the latter part of the eighteenth, and early part of the nineteenth century. He may have been a near relative, possibly a brother, of Edward Coar of Oxendale and Brundhurst. His son Henry married Ann, daughter of —— Bury, grandfather of Mr. Thomas Bury of Roselands, Balderstone.

John Coar, a younger son of James Coar, was in the Choir at St. Mary's, Mellor. His wife was Margaret, daughter of Richard Counsell, who appears to have been a member of a family of Counsells of Osbaldeston and Balderstone. They had one son, John, and four daughters. Catherine, the second daughter, afterwards became the wife of Mr. James Walton, Schoolmaster at Mellor from 1852 to 1872, and Ann, the third daughter of Mr John Coar, became the wife of Mr. Thomas Bury.

Collinson, of Mellor.

The family of Collinson is one of the oldest-known families in the Mellor district. Some centuries ago, members of the family lived in Clayton-le-Dale, while among old deeds of the Stuart period, reference is made to "Collinsones grownde" in Mellor. In the eighteenth century, John Collinson, whose wife was Catherine, farmed at Lower Abbot House. He died in his ninety-second year, and was buried at Blackburn Parish Church. His son John, whose wife was Margaret, lived near the "Guide Post." He died, aged 77, and was buried at Mellor. John's son William married Mary,

MR. JAMES COLLINSON.

Postmaster of Mellor from 1906 to present day.

MRS. JAMES COLLINSON.

Sunday School Teacher for past 35 years.

MR. THOMAS ASPDEN.

(1851-1926).

Churchwarden for 12 years.
A member of the Choir for over 50 years.

MR. JOHN COWBURN.

(1852-1918).

Churchwarden for over 20 years.

daughter of Thomas Hargreaves, and their son John Collinson married Mary, daughter of Richard Jackson. Two of the sons of John Collinson are Mr. James Collinson, Postmaster, since 1907; and Mr. Richard Collinson.

Another branch of the Collinsons is the family of the late Mr. James Collinson, one of whose sons is Mr. Thomas Collinson.

Counsell, of The Rann.

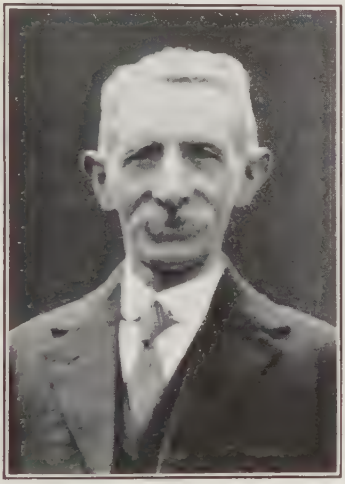
In the early eighteenth century, between 1730 and 1740, James Counsell, yeoman, purchased portions of "Ye Kyte Greene" and "The Intacks," which afterwards came to be known as "The Rand," and later, as "The Rann." The Rann formerly comprised a farm and several cottages.

Thomas Counsell [1775-1850], yeoman, grandson of James, was a Churchwarden at Mellor Church, and the first Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Mellor area, Highway Surveyor, etc. His son, Thomas Counsell (the Younger) [1800-1891], afterwards held his father's appointments, and was also a Churchwarden at St. Mary's, Mellor. In 1889 he had some of the cottages at the Rann taken down, and upon the site he built Beech House. He died without issue in 1891, within a few weeks of his ninety-first birthday, and was buried in his vault in Mellor Churchyard. Members of this family include the late Mr. James Counsell, the late Alderman Thomas Sharples, of Blackburn, and the late Mr. Henry Whittaker, of The Rann.

A great-grandson of Thomas Counsell (the Elder) was the late Mr. Thomas Counsell [1854-1922] (father of the writer), for nearly forty years Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Mellor group of parishes, Highway Surveyor, etc., Clerk to the Mellor Parish Council [1894-1922]. His connection through his mother with the families of Whitehead, Anderson, and Barker, is referred to under "Whittaker." At the time of his death he had been for many years Vicar's Warden at St. Peter's, Salesbury, where he and his wife,—a

MR. THOMAS COUNSELL, OF THE RANN, MELLOR (1800-1891).

Yeoman, Churchwarden, Registrar of Births and Deaths, Highway Surveyor, Assessor of Taxes, etc. To the end of his long life familiarly known as "Young Thomas" to distinguish him from his father.



Mr. THOMAS COUNSELL (1854-1922)

(Father of the writer.)

For nearly forty years Registrar of Births and Deaths, Highway Surveyor, etc., for the Mellor group of parishes; and from its inception, in 1894. Clerk to the Mellor Parish Council.

descendant of the Towneleys of Dutton Hall (a Protestant branch of the Towneleys of Towneley), one of whose members, Mr. Abraham Towneley, of Dutton, was a governor of Blackburn Grammar School in 1690,—are buried.

Cowburn, of Barker Lane.

John Cowburn, born about 1789, lived at Traders' Arms. He married Ann Dugdale, and their son, Robert Cowburn, Farmer, Mellor, married Ellen, daughter of Robert Worthington, whose son, John Worthington, lived at Billinge Scar. One of the sons of Robert and Ellen Cowburn was the late Mr. John Cowburn, Farmer, of Barker Lane, Ramsgreave, who was a staunch supporter, and a highly-esteemed member, of Mellor Church, at which he was a Churchwarden for many years.

Another son of the late Mr. Robert Cowburn was Mr. George Cowburn, Farmer, Mellor.

Croasdale, of Mellor.

The family of Croasdale is a well-known family of the parish of Mellor. The father of Mr. Joseph Croasdale and Mr. James Croasdale (formerly Sexton at Mellor Church) was William Croasdale of Clayton-le-Dale, whose wife, Susanna, was a daughter of Thomas Parkinson, son of Richard Parkinson, whose brother lived at Woodgate, Parlick. The Parkinsons were probably a branch of the Parkinsons of Fairsnape, Bleasdale, whose pedigree is given in Smith's "History of Chipping."

Downham, of Mellor.

Charles Downham, of Hornby, was born in 1756 or 1757. He left Hornby, and came to Mellor, where he died in 1835, aged 78. His wife was Sarah Abbot, whose father farmed at Elswick, Mellor, and was probably related to the Abbots of Abbot House or Mellor Hall. His son Charles had four children,—Anthony; Charles Houghton Downham, who married a daughter

of Robert Gregson, of Ribchester, Schoolmaster; Thomas; and Margaret. Anthony married Martha, daughter of James Kay and Martha, his wife, one of whose sons was the late Mr. Charles Downham, of Mellor, father of Mr. Isaac Downham; while another son was the Rev. Canon Isaac Downham, Vicar of Baxendale.

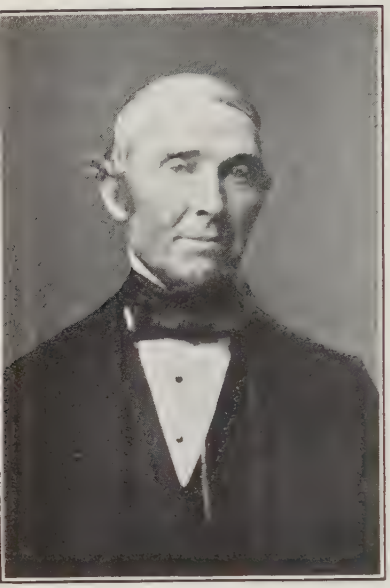
Eddleston, of Mellor.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century, the Eddlestons lived in Billington. Henry Eddleston played in the Orchestra in Old Langho Church, about 1785. He died aged 80, and was buried at Whalley. His son, Nicholas, farmed at Midge Hall and Cunliffe Moss. He had six sons, one of whom was James Eddleston, Clerk,—the fourth and last Clerk at Mellor Church, another son being Thomas Eddleston, of Shackerley, a Churchwarden at Mellor Church. James had a son, Nicholas, who married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Sefton. Another son of James was James Eddleston, of Pope's Farm, Zachary (or Saccary) Brow, who married Phœbe, daughter of Mr. Thomas Hill, of Mellor. Mr. James Eddleston died in 1892, aged 61, and was buried at Mellor. He had three children, namely: the late Rev. Thomas Eddleston, Vicar of High Roding, Essex, one of whose sons, the Rev. Saumerez Eddleston, M.A., Vicar of St. James', Ryde, Isle of Wight, is one of the Centenary preachers; Jane Ann, afterwards the wife of Mr. Wm. Sowerbutts, Corn Merchant, Blackburn; and Sarah, afterwards the wife of Mr. James Brodie, of Edinburgh, one of whose three children is Dr. Brodie.

Mr. Richard Eddleston was a Sunday School Teacher at St. Mary's, Mellor, for about twenty years.

Ellison, of Broadhead.

The Ellisons of Broadhead came from Settle. James Ellison, of Settle, had a son Thomas, who married Isabella, daughter of Robert Ibbotson, whose sons were



MR. JAMES EDDLESTON.
(1799-1860).
The last Clerk of Mellor Church.
(1829-1860).

MR. NICHOLAS EDDLESTON.
Born 1821.
Son of Mr. James Eddleston, Clerk of Mellor Church.
Churchwarden at Mellor Church for several years from 1867.

MRS. J. A. SOWERBUTTS.
who taught in the Sunday School from 1877 to 1892.

Mr. Robert Ibbotson, Headmaster of Hardwick Grammar School, and the Rev. Anthony Ibbotson, Incumbent of Rawdon, near Leeds. Thomas and Isabella had a son, the late Mr. William Ellison, of Broadhead, whose four children are: Mr. James Ellison, of Broadhead and Shore; Mrs. Thomas S. Ainsworth, of Showley; Mrs. James Hill, of Elswick Grange, Kirkham; and Mrs. H. Coar, of Copster Hall, Salesbury.

Forrest, of Mellor.

Henry Forrest, Yeoman, of Mellor, who lived in the latter part of the eighteenth, and early part of the nineteenth century, was married twice. By his first wife, he had a son William, whose wife was Hannah Pemberton, the daughter of James Pemberton, who farmed the land now comprising the Blackburn Corporation Park district. Pemberton Clough was named after this family. Both the Forrest and Pemberton families had vaults in the Blackburn Cathedral yard long before the building of Mellor Church. Henry Forrest had two daughters, one the wife of Richard Aspden, and the other, the wife of Heskin Whittaker.

William Forrest had four sons,—James, William Henry, John, and Thomas, and two daughters.

Sir William Forrest, a former Mayor of Blackburn, is a member of this yeoman family of Mellor, being a son of John Forrest, great-nephew of the late Moulden Forrest, of Stoops Fold, and great-grandson of the above Henry Forrest.

Henry Forrest, by his second wife, had a son Henry, who died in 1890, aged 86; a son Moulden, who was probably one of the earliest churchwardens at Mellor, after St. Mary's, Mellor, began to have its own wardens; a son Thomas, a Blackburn cotton manufacturer; and several other children.

The said Henry Forrest lived at Higher Reaps Farm, Mellor, the house and farm-buildings of which have now been demolished, but which stood near the lane leading to Middle Reaps and Lower Reaps.

Hargreaves, of Mellor House.

The family of Hargreaves appears to have derived its name originally from Hargreave, near Pendle. In early Plantagenet times, reference was made to a family of this name living in the neighbourhood of Whalley. Mention has already been made of the late Mr. Henry Hargreaves, and his sister, Miss Nancy Hargreaves, of Mellor House. [Chapter 4]. Other members of the family were Mr. John Henry Hargreaves and Mr. Lucas Hargreaves, formerly of Mellor House.

Hargreaves, of Reaps.

A well-known Mellor family, some years ago, was that of the late Mr. Thomas Hargreaves of Reaps. One of the representatives of this family is Mrs. J. E. Shorrock, of Lovely Hall Farm, Salesbury, a daughter of Mr. Thomas Hargreaves.

Haydock or Haydocke, of Haydock Fold.

The Haydocks or Haydockes were also a yeoman family of Mellor, owning Haydock Fold, now owned and occupied by Mr. Hy. Bolton. George Haydock [d. 1670] appears to be the earliest member of the family now on record. The name Lawrence also occurs in the records. A later George sold a small portion of "Ye Kyte Greene" to James Counsell in the early eighteenth century. Mr. Edmund Haworth, of Lower Darwen, married a daughter of Mr. Thomas Haydock of Mellor. There appear to be representatives of the family in Blackburn and in Ramsgreave.

Hill, of Whitecroft.

Thomas Hill, son of James Hill and Phœbe, his wife, lived at Whitecroft, Mellor, about 1850, although he was buried at Mytton Church. He had sons—James, Robert and Richard, and daughters—Elizabeth, Phœbe, Susannah, Sarah, and Ann. Phœbe became the wife of Mr. James Eddleston, of Pope's, Mellor, whose children were the late Rev. Thomas Eddleston, Mrs. J. A. Sowerbutts, and Mrs. James Brodie, of Edinburgh.

The late Mr. Robert Hill afterwards lived at Carr Hall, Wilpshire. When he retired from farming, he built the two rows of houses near Salesbury Church known as Church View, Salesbury, and Clayton Grove, Clayton-le-Dale, and also a small Protestant Mission Room to take the place of the long-established cottage-meetings. His son, Mr. James Hill, lives at Elswick Grange, near Kirkham.

Hoghton, of Mellor.

"Thomas Hoghton, of Mellor, was assessed for his lands to a Subsidy, in 1570. A later Thomas Hoghton . . . . . paid Blackburn Grammar School Trustees, in 1641, £10 rent for lands in Mellor; and Thomas Hoghton of Mellor held a freehold in Blackburn Wapentake [Hundred or "Shire"] in 1650, and paid 6d. to Clitheroe Court." [Abram's "Blackburn"].

Kinder, of Mellor and Ramsgreave.

For many years one of the best-known farmers of Mellor was Mr. Thomas Kinder, whose sons are still engaged in farming in the district. Mr. John Kinder, another member of the family, farmed for many years at Hagg's Hall, Ramsgreave. His sons are Haulage Contractors in Blackburn (Kinder Bros.).

Kenyon, of Mellor.

William Kenyon married Margaret, daughter of Benjamin Counsell, grandfather of Mr. Thos. Counsell, near New Springs, and their children were: Hannah, afterwards the wife of Mr. George Beech; Alice Ann, afterwards the wife of Mr. Hugh E. Whittle; James, who married Alice Emmett; the Rev. Benjamin Kenyon, L.Th., Vicar of Loughborough,—one of the Centenary preachers; Mary; and Margaret.

Mr. Eli Kenyon has been Hon. Secretary of the Mellor Church Council since its formation in 1922.

MR. ELI KENYON.

Honorary Secretary of the Mellor Church Council since its formation in 1922.

Osbaldeston, of Mellor.

The Osbaldestons of Mellor were a younger branch of the Osbaldestons of Osbaldeston, who were descended from Hugo de Osbaldeston, who died about 1200. Thomas Osbaldeston is mentioned in records of the early Stuart period, and other members of the family referred to in old deeds examined by the writer were Robert Osbaldeston, Thomas Osbaldeston, and Christopher Osbaldeston.

"Alexander," near The Saccary, was probably named from a member of the parent house. It is now owned and occupied by Miss Bottomley, a sister of Mr. H. Bottomley, J.P., C.C., of Little Mytton Hall.

Pope, of Pope's.

For two or three generations, in the eighteenth century, the family of Pope, whose name is perpetuated by "Pope's Farm," must have been well known in Mellor and Clayton-le-Dale, for Adam Pope, Yeoman, whose

name occurs on so many old deeds,—like his neighbour, James Counsell, Yeoman, of The Intacks (The Rann),—had almost a hobby of buying and selling small strips of land, or closes, of a few acres each. In 1668, Thomas Pope and his son, Adam Pope, purchased a portion of "Ye Kyte Greene" from Robert and Thomas Osbaldeston. Later, Adam Pope purchased a close known as "Ye Higher Intack," near The Rann [which should not be confused with The Higher Intack, near the "Windmill"], from Thomas Stanley, Esquire. Adam Pope had one or more daughters, but no sons who survived him.

MR. JAMES SHORROCK
(1813-1889),
of Barker Lane House, Mellor. Landowner and Cotton Merchant
A Churchwarden at Mellor Church for
many years along with Mr. John Smith.

Shorrock, of Barker Lane House.

This branch of the Shorrock family has lived in Barker Lane, Mellor, for several generations. James Shorrock, of Barker Lane, married Margaret Lund, of

Hollow Head, Wilpshire, whose son John [1778-1864] married Mary, daughter of James Pemberton, of "Shire Bank," "Pemberton Clough" (now the Corporation Park), Blackburn. They had nine children, among whom were: the late Mr. James Shorrock [1813-1889], owner of a considerable portion of Ramsgreave, who was a Churchwarden at Mellor Church, for some time; the late Miss Ellen Shorrock, who died in 1919 at the advanced age of 95 years; and Miss Mary Shorrock, who died in 1925, in her "eighties."

Shorrock, of Shorrock Green.

The family of Shorrock or Shorok is mentioned at a very early date. Their original home appears to have been in the neighbourhood of Woodfold, where old maps and records give, not only Shorrock Hey and Shorrock Hey Fold, but also "Old Shorrock" and "Shorrock Green."

About 1300, William and Henry, sons of Roger de Shorok, are mentioned. Other members of the family, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, were Richard de Shorrok, John de Shorrok, and Geoffrey Shorock. Their estate of Shorrock Green passed, at a later date, to the Claytons.

There appear to be representatives of the family in Blackburn, and at Salesbury.

Sowerbutts, of Mellor.

Although, perhaps, Balderstone has a greater claim than Mellor upon the family of Sowerbutts, the late Mr. Thomas Sowerbutts, Tea Merchant, lived for some years at Ravenswing. Among the representatives of this family are Mrs. J. W. Smith of Longridge, formerly of Mellor, and Mrs. Gabbutt, wife of Mr. Gabbutt, Bookseller (Seed & Gabbutt), Preston New Road, Blackburn.

Smalley, of Elswick, Mellor.

Families named Smalley have lived in Lower Ribblesdale for several centuries, in Blackburn, Preston, Darwen, Balderstone, and Mellor. One of the best-

known members was John Smalley [1729-1782], the friend and helper of Sir Richard Arkwright, the inventor, and afterwards his partner in a cotton-spinning business in Derbyshire.

"Roger Smalley, gent." held lands in Balderstone in Elizabethan times, and a Roger Smalley (probably the same) was a governor of Blackburn Grammar School

HY. SMALLEY, ESQ., J.P.

One of the Managers of Mellor School. Head of John Smalley & Sons, Ltd., Elswick Cotton Mills, Mellor. The Smalley Family have had seats in Mellor Church from its foundation.

in 1586. "Richard Smalley, gent." purchased an estate at Larkhill, Blackburn, about 1800. He died in 1835, and was buried at Chapel Street Independent Church, Blackburn.

The late MR. JOHN SMALLEY of Mellor built Elswick Mill, in 1878. His son, MR. HENRY SMALLEY, J.P., the present owner of the mill, is widely known throughout the Lancashire cotton district. He married Miss Alice

Hoyle, daughter of the late Mr. James Hoyle, at one time Mayor of Blackburn, whose son was the late Rev. Kenyon Rushton Hoyle. Mr. Henry Smalley is a staunch supporter of Methodism, and also of Temperance and of other movements, and he was one of the founders, more than twenty years ago, of the Blackburn Wesleyan Mission.

Miss Alice Smalley, daughter of Mr. John Smalley, married the late Rev. Kenyon Rushton Hoyle, and she has three sons and one daughter.

Walmsley, of Mellor.

The Walmsleys of Mellor, like other families named in early times from places, were almost certainly a branch of a manorial family, and may have been related to the Walmsleys of Showley Hall. Richard is mentioned in 1610-11, and several members of the family were governors of Blackburn Grammar School. The Walmsleys lived at Reaps and Whitecroft.

Walton, of Mellor.

James Walton, of the eighteenth century, appears to have come from London, where he owned property. His wife was Nancy Hargreaves, of Shire [Shear] Brow, Blackburn. Their son, Joseph Walton, married Abigail, daughter of James Rigby, Organist at Brindle Church, son of Robert Rigby, of Brindle, who was a keen sportsman. The Rigby Seal contained an hour-glass, with the motto: "Le temps passe, mais l'amitie reste." One of the sons of Joseph and Abigail Walton was the late Mr. James Walton [1822-1907], Schoolmaster at Mellor from 1852 to 1872, and a Churchwarden at St. Mary's, Mellor. He married Miss Catherine Coar, daughter of Mr. John Coar, and sister of Mrs. Thomas Bury. Mr. James Walton had three children: the Rev. James William Walton, B.A.; Louisa Abigail Walton, who died in 1894; and Minnie K. M. Walton, now Mrs. Richard Collinson. Among the other members of the family of

Mr. Joseph Walton were: Ann, who became the wife of Mr. James Chadwick, a descendant of Sir Andrew Chadwick, and Mr. Joseph Walton, Solicitor, who married Miss M. J. Manley, of Walton-le-Dale.

Ward, of The Kennels.

The late Mr. William Ward, of The Kennels, at his death, left £1,000 for the augmentation of the Mellor Church living. Mr. Ward (a nephew of the late Mr. Daniel Thwaites) was the owner of a very fine collection of copper, silver and canary "resist lustre-ware," which was illustrated in an article in "The Connoisseur" some years ago.

Ward, of The Oaks.

The late Mr. Henry Ward, of The Oaks, Clayton-le-Dale, was a member of a Mellor family, and a friend of the late Messrs. John Smalley, Henry Forrest and James Shorrock. He purchased the large estate in Clayton-le-Dale, afterwards owned by the Duke of Somerset, and rebuilt many of the farmhouses. One of his daughters is Miss L. Ward, of Wilpshire, and two of his grandchildren are Miss L. V. Ward, of Blackburn, who takes a great interest in the work of St. Barnabas' Church, Blackburn, and in the work of the Young Life Campaign movement; and her brother, the Rev. Henry Ward, M.A., of Bispham, a well-known Evangelical.

Whithalgh or Whitehalgh, of Mellor.

The family of Whithalgh (Whitehalgh, Whythalgh) held lands in Livesey and Mellor in the sixteenth century. James Whithalgh was one of the first governors of Blackburn Grammar School, named in the charter of 1567. A later member of the family conveyed to trustees for the use of Blackburn Grammar School, an estate called Whithalgh House, and "a new barne and close called Sedge Hole, lately improved and inclosed from the common waste of Mellor."

[Authority consulted: Abram's "Blackburn."]

Whittaker or Whitaker, of The Rann.

The Whittakers or Whitakers of The Rann are a branch of the large family or clan of Whittaker (Whitaker, Whytaker, Whiteacre, etc.), of the Blackburn and Burnley Valley. Although there are two or three other places bearing the name Whittaker or Whitaker (*e.g.*, Whittaker, near Rochdale), it is highly probable that all the Whittakers of this Valley had for their original home, in Plantagenet times, Whiteacre or High Whitaker, near Padiham. The old "coat-of-arms" of Whitaker of High Whitaker [Sable, three mascles argent] is one of the two Whitaker coats-of-arms to be seen in the east window of Whalley Church. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, this branch of the family lived in the neighbourhood of High Whitaker. About the middle of last century, Henry Whitaker (who signed his name with one 't,' although his children often used two "t's"), son of William, son of John, son of John, lived at Dinckley Hall. His wife was a daughter of Thomas Whitehead, Yeoman, of Heightside or "Pretty Bank," Padiham, and "Long Ludford, Co. Lincoln," two of whose grandchildren were Miss E. A. Anderson, a well-known Rishton lady and mill-owner, and the Rev. Thomas Barker, M.A., Vicar and Rural Dean of Revesby, Lincolnshire. Thomas Whitaker (or Whittaker) married Esther Counsell, of The Rann, whose cousin, Thomas Counsell (grandfather of the writer), married a daughter of Henry Whitaker. The only son of Thomas Whittaker was the late Mr. Henry Whittaker [1855-1898], of The Rann, and later, of Beech Bank, Wilpshire, Superintendent Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, for twenty-five years closely associated with the work of St. Mary's Church and Sunday Schools, Mellor, and afterwards, to the time of his death, a Churchwarden at St. Peter's, Salesbury. His four children are: Mr. Thomas Counsell Whittaker (the present owner of The Rann), Mr. Henry Whittaker (Vicar's Warden, Mellor Church), The Rev. George Whittaker, M.A., R.N., and Miss Catherine Esther Whittaker.

The following is a list of the Families of the Township or Civil Parish of Mellor in 1929:—

ABBOTT BROW.

Thompson, James William, Calf House.
Tripyear, John, Lower Abbott Farm.
Peacock, Webster, Quarry Bank.
Kenyon, Ruth Katherine, Abbott House.
Hodgkinson, John, Abbott Brow.
Margison, Thomas.
Clarkson, Ellen.
Walton, Joseph.
Ashworth, William.
Whalley, David, Southworth Green.
Moll, Ida Dagmar, Abbott Brow.
Holdsworth, Stephen.
Haworth, Mary Alice.
Bolton, Andrew.
Kenyon, Thomas, Ward's Farm.
Cook, Margaret Alice, Abbott Brow.
Jackson, Ernest Harold.
Parker, John.
Collinson, Esther.
Rakestraw, Christopher.
Greenbank, William.
Pye, James.

BARKER LANE.

Collings, John Henry.
Woodward, Reginald Richard.
Jowitt, Thomas.
Hargreaves, Thomas, Lower Warble Hey.
Croysdale, James, Barker Lane.
Croysdale, Robert.
Taylor, Fred.
Wood, John.
Houghton, Gideon.
Clarkson, John James.

BROOKFIELD.

Croasdale, Thomas, Brookfield House.

	No.
Limer, William,	1
Wildman, Thomas,	3
Blackburn, William Richley,	5
Russell, George,	7
Rawlinson, John,	9
Aspden, George,	11
Eccleston, Fred Richmond,	17

Brookfield *continued.*

	No.
Taylor, James,	19
Thompson, Robert Corker,	21
Greenhalgh, Ernest,	23
Edmondson, Richard,	25
Parkinson, Albert,	27
Haworth, John Henry,	29
Blackburn, Albert,	31

CHURCH LANE.

Boyes, Lucas, School House.
Harris, Rev. Frederick George, The Vicarage.

Aspden, George,	3
Collinson, Harold, Ardenlee,	5
Aspden, Mary, Kirkside,	7
Pye, Elizabeth Alice,	9
Pye, Mary,	9
Waddington, Thomas,	11
Haworth, Grace Hannah,	13
Duckworth, William,	15
Gabbutt, Francis Breakey,	17
Cook, Margaret,	21

Ward, James, Hob Green Farm.

Hindle, Arthur,	23
Haworth, Harry,	25

Peacock, Josh Tom, off Yerburgh Road.
Peacock, Eustace.
Peacock, William.

Peacock, Bertram,	2
Collinson, Richard,	4
Collinson, James, Post Office	6
Fielden, Josiah,	8
Proctor, James,	10
Blackburn, Mary Jane,	12
Croasdale, Richard,	14
Fish, John,	16
Worden, John Edward,	18
Cook, John,	20
Aspden, Alice,	22

Cook, John, Ravenswing.
Proctor, John.

Burrows, Arthur,	24

FAR LANES.

Blackburn William.
Robinson, Thomas, Yew Tree Farm.
Kinder, Tom, Ward's Farm.
Emmett, George, Far Lanes.
Jerrard, Arthur Ashley Flood.
Kinder, William, Bolton Fold.
Simpson, William, Cook's Farm.

FAR LANES—*continued.*

Smith, Arthur, Ravenswing Farm.
Aspden, Thomas, Channel House Farm.

LANE ENDS.

Gillibrand, Thomas.
Hull, John.
Coar, William.
Haworth, Arthur.
Ward, Ellen.
Whalley, Elizabeth.

LONG ROW.

Billington, Edith Mary.
Graham, William.
Wrench, James Alfred.
Eccles, Matthew.
Eccles, Alice Ann.
Greenwood, Helliwell.
Charnley, Elizabeth Grace.
Charnley, James.
Carter, James.
Jowitt, Charles.
Edmondson, Edward.
Seward, James William, Middle Warble Hey Farm.

MELLOR BROW.

Moss, George, Delph Cottage.
Mather, Harry.

	No.
Clarkson, Edward, .	3
Bailey, Albert Victor,	5
Ashton, Elizabeth Ann,	7
Rawcliffe, Samson,	9
Jackson, Francis Matthew,	11
Holdsworth, James, Broad Tree Farm.	
Halliwell, William,	13
Croasdale, Joseph,	13
Kenyon, John,	15
Proctor, Mary Ann,	17
Collinson, John Edward, Higher Broad Tree Farm.	
Holdsworth, John Barnes, Bone House.	
Parkinson, George, Bay Tree Farm.	
Sedgwick, John,	
Burrows, Daniel, Middle Broad Tree Farm.	
Croasdale, William,	6
Sharples, Jane,	8
Sharples, Ann,	8
Smith, Jane,	10
Shackleton, Samuel,	12
Worden, John Nelson,	14

MELLOR BROW—*continued.*

	No.
Greenbank, John,	16
Croasdale, Joseph,	18
Aspden, James,	20
Hornesby, John William, Elswick Farm.	
Croasdale, Margaret Ann,	22
Storey, William,	24
Sharples, Adam,	26
Craven, Simeon Smith,	28
Whittle, Robert Edward,	30
North, Mary Ellen	32
Parker, Elizabeth,	34
Bradley, Robert,	36
Craven, John,	38
Bond, James Thomas,	40
Holroyd, Walter,	42
Bond, Joseph James,	44
Billington, Robert,	46
Proctor, Edward,	48
Billington, John,	50
Dean, John,	52
Smith, John,	54
Gillibrand, Henry,	56
Fairclough, James,	58
Holden, Thomas,	60
Greenbank, Richard,	62
North, Henry,	64
Coyne, Christopher,	66
Cooper, Alfred,	68
Smalley, Henry, Elswick House.	

MELLOR LANE.

Croasdale, John, Mill Stone Hotel.	
Croasdale, Vida.	
Talbot, William,	3
Croasdale, Ann,	5
Parker, Alexander,	7
Whalley, Joseph,	9
Baird, Robert,	11
Croasdale, Joseph,	13
Horrocks, James,	15
Collinson, Thomas Herbert,	17
Clarkson, Joseph,	19
Whalley, William,	21
Gillibrand, John,	23
Southworth, John,	25
Tate, Thomas Slingsby,	27
Jackson, Margaret Ellen,	29
Croasdale, Henry,	31
Fish, Ellis,	33
Parker, Alice Ann,	35
Fish, Joseph,	37
Hindle, John,	39
Edmondson, John,	41
Hamer, Sydney,	43
Bolton, John,	45
Singleton, Edward,	47
Jackson, Thomas,	49

MELLOR LANE—*continued.*

	No.
Emmett, Joseph,	51
Davies, Joseph, Higher Whitecroft Farm.	
Beech, Isabella,	53
Hodgkinson, Thomas,	55
Walton, Emmanuel,	57
Spirring, Jane,	59
Walton, George Richard,	61
Croasdale, Herbert,	63
Fish, Cephas Edward,	65
Whalley, Tom,	67
Hornby, James,	69
Boyes, Lucas, Carter Fold Farm.	
Croasdale, Fred,	71
Whalley, William,	73
Kirk, Mary,	75
Dugdale, Henry, Traders Arms.	
Cook, Thomas,	77
Gillett, Herbert, Horn's Farm.	
Waring, John,	
Eddleston, James,	79
Fish, Walter,	81
Dugdale, Fred,	83
Smith, Mary,	85
Ward, Martha,	85
Whalley, Arthur,	87
Hull, James,	89
Hombler, Mary,	91
Ridyard, Rev. Walter, Boardman House,	93
McAuley, Henry,	97
Benfield, Denis Aubrey,	99
Boothman, William Thomas,	101
Hargreaves, James,	103
Bennett, Ernest,	2
Mattinson, William,	4
Talbot, James William,	6
Talbot, Arthur,	6
Stevens, Josiah,	8
Duxbury, Arthur,	10
Talbot, Edward Coupe,	12
Dean, Sarah Ann,	14
Dean, Wilson Cayton,	16
Smith, John,	18
Jameson, Walter Edward,	20
Whittle, James,	22a
Ramsbottom, Horace Pickup,	22
Whalley, William,	24
Whalley, Deborah,	26
Pye, John,	28
Walmsley, Joseph Louis,	30
Pilling, Elizabeth,	32
Yates, Frank Leonard,	34
Noblett, Frederick,	36
Gillibrand, Alice,	40
Tinsley, John,	42
Robinson, Jane, Old Dad's House.	

MELLOR LANE—*continued.*

Downham, James Arthur, Old Dad's Farm,

MIRE ASH BROW.

Simm, Percy, Balshaw Fold Farm.
Higson, Frank Edwin.
Coar, Ralph, Cunliffe Fold.

NICKEY LANE.

Fairbrother, Richard.
Gillibrand, John.
Walmsley, William Henry,
Clarkson, Thomas.
Gillibrand, David.

PRESTON NEW ROAD.

Dabbs, Edward, Shackerley Farm.
Woodhouse, Francis Dickinson, Hacking House.
Peacock, Frederick Matthew, Arley Farm.
Pilkington, Thomas, Arley.
Cotton, Alfred Charles, Walks Farm.
Garnett, William Albert, Stanley House.
Fender, Jane, Side Bar.
Aspden, Richard, Lower Brundhurst.
Goldsbrough, James Frederick, Brundhurst.
Stanford, Arthur, Shackerley Farm.

SACCARY LANE.

Errington, Betty, Primrose Hill.
Pickering, Arthur.
Whalley, William.
Green, Amy.
Green, Laura.
Henshaw, John.
Lucas, Richard James, Moor Edge.
Sharples, Joseph Eatough, Primrose Farm.
Bretherton, James Lower Leaches.
Bretherton, William, Mellor House.
Hulme, William.

	No.
Embley, Annie,	1
Forth, Sarah,	3
Caine, Sarah Alice,	7

SACCARY LANE—*continued.*

Chambers, Thomas, Pope's Farm.
Bottomley, Hannah, Alexander.
Chambers, Frederick William, Anderton House.
Houghton, George, Blue Slate.
Rainford, Roger, Throstle Nest.
Counsell, Charles, Wood Farm.
Jepson, Richard Lowell, Throstle Nest.
Whittaker, Henry, The Rann.
Smith, Jennie Jardine, Beech House.
Smith, Margaret Purdis.
Hargreaves, John Isherwood, New Springs.
Hargreaves, John, Dungeon Cottages.
Counsell, Thomas.
Bolton, William, Lower Haydock Fold (or Birley Fold).
Bolton, Henry, Haydock Fold.
Keough, William, Cockerham Hall.

STOOPS FOLD.

Fish, James Sumner.
Pomfret, John.
Shaw, Arthur.

TOP-O-TH-HEIGHTS.

Thompson, Samuel, Leaches Farm.
Shorrock, Margaret, Willow House.
Shorrock, Maud.
Trickett, William, The Heights.
Spiring, Edna, Froth Hall.
Spiring, Mary.
Holt, Thomas Joseph, Warble Hey Farm.
Warburton, William, Spread Eagle Inn.

VICTORIA TERRACE.

Waddington, Christopher.
Coupe, Margaret.
Craven, Henry.
Proctor, Alice.
Eddleston, Thomas.
Mottershead, Mary.
Dolphin, William.
McCluskey, Thomas.

WHINNEY LANE.

Lord, James, Home Farm.
Hindle, Joseph Byrne, Enemies Castle Farm.

WHINNEY LANE—*continued.*

Gillett, Joseph, King Bank Farm.
Clarkson, Joshua, Whinney Lane.
Craven, Alice Walmsley.
Eccles, Alice Ann.
Eccles, Nora Grace.
Williams, Agnes.
Regan, John.
Lees, Hannah.
Sanderson, Thomas.
Gillett, Thomas, Spout House Farm.
Croasdale, William, Middle Reaps Farm.
Kinder, George Harry, Lower Reaps Farm.
Baron, Jack, Vine House Farm.

WHITECROFT.

Kenyon, Eli, Moulden's Farm.
Whalley, Enoch, Whitecroft.
Whalley, John William.
Boyes, Jane Ann.
Herd, Jackson,
Croasdale, Richard.
Helm, James.
Coar, John, Whitecroft Farm.
Woodhouse, Jane, Whitecroft.
Holden, Ralph.
Ashcroft, John.
Kinder, Arthur, Dick Dad's Farm.
Waring, John James, Ottie Green Farm.
Kenyon, John, Watery Gate Farm.

WOODFOLD PARK

Yerburgh, Elma Amy, Woodfold Hall.
Mercer, Emma.
Hartley, Christopher, Park Farm.
Hudd, Mary Jane, Park Cottages.
Brown, George.
Parker, Mary Jane.
Parker, Emily Ann.
Boocock, William Thomas, Middle Lodge.
Barnes, Ellen, School Land Farm.
Barnes, Elizabeth.
Barnes, Jane Ann.
Barnes, Catherine May.
Edmundson, Elizabeth Ann, Lodge Gates.

CHAPTER 7.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

MELLOR.

Among the various spellings found in the old records are the following:—Melver, Melvir, Meluir, Mellure, Meler, Mellour, Mellar, Mellor.

Statistics in 1901. [Before alteration of boundaries in Ramsgreave].

Township	Area (Acres)	Inhabited Houses	Uninhabited Houses	Population Males	Population Females	Population Total
Mellor	1743	255	24	501	610	111
Ramsgreave	778	49	8	77	102	179

Owing to the "Rural Exodus," the population of Mellor, to-day, is only about half the population of a hundred years ago.

The population at the 1831 Census was 2,071, while forty years later, in 1871, it had fallen to 1,178.

Mellor Parish Council.

The civil parish of Mellor has a Parish Council, of which the Vicar is the Chairman, and Mr. Albert Blackburn, Registrar, etc., the Clerk.

Roads.

After the departure of the Romans in the fifth century, there were no great road-makers in this country until the days of Macadam, a little more than a century ago. The roads were frequently impassable for vehicles, and goods were often carried from place to place by means of pack-horses, travelling along the bridle-paths.

Before the construction of the turnpike roads,—Preston New Road, crossing the parish in the south-west, and the Mellor Brook-Whalley Road (or Long-sight Road), skirting the north-west boundary of the parish,—the road from Preston and Walton-le-Dale to Whalley passed through Mellor Brook, and almost along the ridge, or "Edge," of Mellor Moor and Rams-

MR. ALBERT BLACKBURN.

Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Mellor group of Parishes, Rating and Registration Officer, Collector, etc., Clerk to Mellor Parish Council since 1922.

greave. Among the other roads or lanes were: a lane forming a continuation of Dukes Brow, Blackburn, and leading to Preston; a lane leading between "Blackburn and Mellor village" [? Whinney Lane, or Nickey Lane], and "the laine leading betweene Blackborne and Showley" [Showley Hall].

Railways.

The line from Blackburn to Hellifield skirts the eastern boundary of Ramsgreave, the nearest station to Mellor being Wilpshire, formerly called "Ribchester

Station," about three miles E.N.E. of St. Mary's, Mellor.

Of the two nineteenth-century projected railways through Lower Ribblesdale, the second [1891] would have passed near Mellor Brook.

Old Place-Names in or near Mellor.

[From V.C.H., old deeds, etc.]

The Hermitage. [?Near Mellor Brook.]
Staingate.
Stainlaw.
Scholfley. [Showley Hall.]
Hauckeschae. [Hawkshaw (Hawks' wood),—formerly a portion of Mellor and Clayton-le-Dale.]
Haukeschae Brook. [Seven-Acre Brook.]
Eissilache. [Part of the boundary between Mellor and Ramsgreave.]
Ditch del Hackinbothe. [Arley Brook. Cf. Hacking House.]
Forest of Ramsgreave.
Blakebroe. [? Showley Brook.]
Sike de Bereschae. [? Saccary, Zechary, or Zechariah Brook.]
Sike of Stonilode. [Tottering Brook.]
Deerschawe.
Lydiate. [A barrier across the road, near Lower Abbot House, to prevent cattle from straying.]
The Heye. [? Near Lower Abbott House.]
Armetridding. [? Land near the "Arm," Mellor Brook.]
Haukeschae Ruding. [? Land on both flanks of Mellor Moor.]
Brendehurst. [Brundhurst.]
Boseden. [Bosburn.]
Olde Shorrock.
Shorrock Green.
Otty Green.
Hob Green.
Kyte Greene. [The Rann, Ousel Nest, etc.]

Intacks; Ye Higher Intack. [Near Kyte, or Kite Green.]
The Witch Croft. [Part of Birley Fold.]
Ousel Nest.

N.B.—It is a remarkable fact, that, while so many of the old field-names, and other place-names have fallen into disuse, others, *e.g.*, Boseden, Brendehurst, Haukeschae, etc., have persisted, almost unchanged, century after century.

The following extract from the Towneley Manuscripts (quoted by the V.C.H.) relates to an old estate, apparently including The Wood Farm, Blue Slate (Mellor), Throstle Nest, Cunliffe Moss, etc.:—"In a third grant by Henry de Honford to Henry de Blakeburn, the boundary began at Blakebroe, ascended Deerschawe to its head, followed the division of the forest of Ramsgreave to the highway upon the Edge, so westward to the cross standing on the Edge on the road leading from Showley to Blackburn, thence northwards towards Showley to the syke at the lower head of Stainlaw, and so into Blakebroc."

Another extract from this source reads:
"In 1285, John Devyas granted to John, son of Robert de 'Melvir in Blakeburnshire,' the free state of pensioner and assured him in all actions which touch a pensioner, for his homage and service which the latter made for the half part of the town of Mellor."

SOME CHURCH WORKERS, ETC., AT MELLOR.

Mr. John Smith, of Mellor Lane, Hand-loom Cotton Manufacturer (father of Mr. William Smith, of Longridge), was a great worker for St. Mary's Church. While on the Stock Exchange at Manchester, he begged most of the money for the first organ, which he bought in Manchester. It was formerly in a Congregational Church there, and the owners wanted £100 for it. Mr.

Smith, after much bargaining, managed to purchase the organ and have it re-built at Mellor for £46. A portion of this organ is still in use.

MR. JOHN SMITH.

(1797-1875.)

A Church-worker for very many years. Mr. Smith, who was a handloom cotton manufacturer, collected subscriptions on the Manchester Royal Exchange, with which, and the proceeds of a sale of work, the first organ for Mellor Church was bought.

Mr. John Smith was the grandfather of Mr. William Smith, of Apsley House, Longridge.

A Bazaar, held in 1860, was the means of raising £100.

Mrs. Greaves, of Elswick Terrace, now aged 87, was formerly an active church worker. Her great interest in the Church was shown by the fact that she worked in the evenings for six months at Dr. Grime's, Ravenswing

(afterwards Ravenswing College) in preparation for a Bazaar, held about 1870, to raise money to pay off the Organ Debt. Mrs. Greaves is also one of the oldest seat-holders in the Church, having paid for one or more sittings for 69 years!

The Churchwardens, as in other Churches, used to go out about the middle of the services to bring in loiterers, pigeon-fliers, etc.

Mrs. Ellen Whittaker (neé Counsell, wife of the late Mr. Henry Whittaker), who was also a Sunday School teacher; Mrs. Nancy Talbot (née Bolton), mother of Messrs. John, William, and Arthur Talbot; Mrs. Deborah Talbot (née Johnson), sister of Miss Elizabeth Johnson, of Mellor Lane, who left £340 to St. Mary's Church, were members of the Choir, about 1870.

MRS. Hy. WHITTAKER.
(1853—1919).
A member of the Choir and Teacher in Sunday School for many years.
Four of her uncles (one of whom was Choirmaster) played in the Orchestra in the days before the Church possessed an organ.

Mr. George Counsell, son of Mr. James Counsell, Choirmaster (among whose present-day representatives are the sons of the late Mr. George Counsell, of Darwen Street, Blackburn), was the first organist. After his death, Mrs. Henry Stone played the organ, until she removed from the parish. She was succeeded as organist by Miss Ann Coar, daughter of Mr. John Coar.

The first Bell-ringer was Mr. John Trimmer. Mr. John Smith, of Mellor Lane, was Bell-ringer and Organ-blower for many years. Mr. Thomas Smith was Organ-blower for 35 years. Mr. James Haydock was a sides-man and Sunday School teacher. Mr. Benjamin Counsell was also a church official, apparently a sides-man, at St. Mary's. Mr. Richard Eddleston was a Sunday School teacher about 1870.

The Church Orchestra.—The members of the Church Orchestra, prior to the installation of the Organ, used to sit round the stove in the body of the Church, while they played for the services.

Mr. James Counsell (uncle to the late Mrs. Henry Whittaker) was Choirmaster, playing the Bass Fiddle. Mr. George Cronshaw played the First Violin, and Mr. John Coar (father of Miss Ann Coar) played the 'Cello. Messrs. George, Richard, and William Counsell (brothers of the Choirmaster) played, respectively, the Bassoon, the Clarionette, and the Second Violin.

Mr. Thomas Aspden, of "Kirkside," Church Lane, was a bass singer in the Choir for over 50 years, and a Churchwarden for many years, to the time of his wood, about thirty-five years ago. He often sang in the Choir, occasionally singing solos.

Sir John Rutherford, Bart., of Beardwood, has attended Mellor Church for over 20 years and is one of its most generous and enthusiastic supporters. He represented the Darwen Division of Lancashire in Parliament in the Conservative interest for more than 25

SIR JOHN RUTHERFORD, BART.

(for over 25 years Member of Parliament for the Darwen Division of Lancashire, of which the parish of Mellor forms part. A worshipper at and staunch supporter of Mellor Church for over 20 years).

MR. J. S. POLLITT.

(1844—1921.)

Manager of the Manchester & County Bank, Blackburn. Churchwarden at Mellor Church from 1888 to 1908.

years. His horse Solario, which narrowly missed winning the Derby in 1924, won the St. Leger in 1925 and the Ascot Gold Cup in 1926. Sir John is a Colonel of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, and has occupied the office of Mayor of Blackburn. This year he is President of the Lancashire Agricultural Society.

Mr. William Kay, J.P., a member of an old and highly-respected Blackburn family, was a frequent attender at St. Mary's, Mellor, when living at Beardwood, about 35 years of age. He often sang in the Choir, and occasionally sang solos.

Mr. Joseph S. Pollitt, formerly the Manager of the Manchester and County Bank, Blackburn, was a Churchwarden at Mellor for many years.

The late Mr. Lawrence Margerison, the first Sexton, once climbed up the Church steeple, and placed and left a penny upon the top!

Sarah Eddleston, of Saccary (sister of Mrs. J. A. Sowerbutts) was the first child to be christened by the Rev. G. R. G. Pughe.

The first entry in the Baptismal Register is that of Thomas, son of Thomas and Betty Berry, baptized September 20th, 1829 (five days after the consecration of the Church).

The first entry in the Burial Register is that of James Seed, buried June 1st, 1830.

The first entry in the Marriage Register is that of Abraham Fenton to Mary Wilkinson, October 17th, 1837.

During the past hundred years (to July, 1929) the Baptisms have numbered 2,140, the Marriages 455, and the Burials 3,479.

Photo by Elsie Ames

THE RIGHT REV. PERCY MARK HERBERT, D.D.

Appointed First Bishop of Blackburn, 1927.

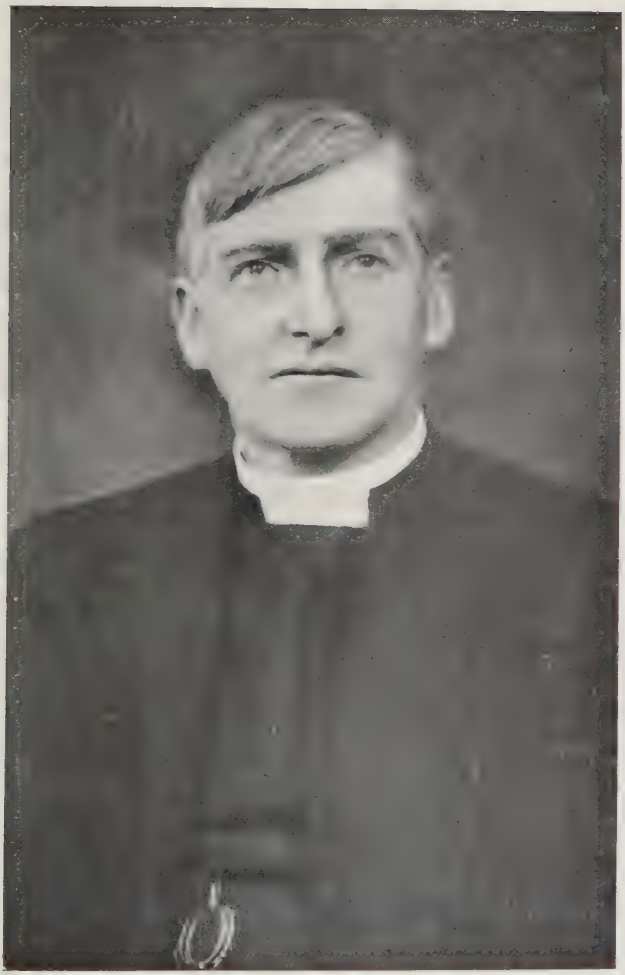


Photo by Elsie Ames

REV. CANON JOHN SINKER, R.D.,
Vicar of Blackburn.
Patron of the Advowson of Mellor.

CHAPTER 8.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

(CONTRIBUTED).

The Church Council have decided to keep the Centenary of the Consecration of the Church by holding a number of Special Services and Social Engagements. These will begin on Sunday, September 22nd, with Holy Communion at 8-15 a.m. The morning preacher, at 10-30, will be the Vicar (the Rev. F. G. Harris, B.A.), whilst in the afternoon a united Scholars' Service will be held in the Church and addressed by the Rev. Arthur Boddington, M.A., Vicar of St. Peter's, Blackburn. At the Evening Service, at 6-30, the Lord Bishop of Blackburn (Dr. P. M. Herbert) will preach.

On Sunday, September 29th, the preachers will be members of old Mellor families. In the morning, at 10-30, the Rev. George Whittaker, M.A., R.N., Chaplain to the Royal Navy Barracks, Devonport, will preach, and in the evening the Rev. Saumarez Eddleston, M.A., Vicar of St. James', Ryde, Isle of Wight, will occupy the pulpit.

On Friday evening, the 27th September, the Centenary Dance will be held in the Schools. The guests are invited to wear, if possible, costumes in vogue in or about 1829.

On October 6th, at 10-30 a.m., the Rev. F. P. Nash, M.A., Vicar of St. John's, Blackburn, will preach; whilst in the evening another member of an old Mellor family will preach, in the person of the Rev. Benjamin Kenyon, L.Th., Vicar of Holy Trinity, Loughborough.

On Thursday evening, October 10th, we commence

REV. W. H. B. YERBURGH, M.A.,
Rector of Bredon, Worcestershire.
Son of the late Rector of Tewkesbury Abbey and nephew of Mrs. R. A. Yerburgh.

REV. BENJAMIN KENYON, L.Th.,
Vicar of Holy Trinity, Loughborough.
(A member of an old Mellor Family.)

REV. SAUMAREZ EDDLESTON, M.A.
Vicar of St. James's, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
(A member of an old Mellor family).

REV. GEORGE WHITTAKER, M.A., R.N.,
Chaplain, Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport.
(A member of an old Mellor family).

our Harvest Festival. There will be a Choral Service in Church led by the St. John's Boys' Prize Choir, when special selections will be rendered. The preacher will be the Rev. Canon W. E. Harston Morris, M.A., Vicar of All Saints', Southport.

On Saturday, October 12th, the Centenary Congregational Tea Party will be held in the School, commencing at 5-0 p.m. After tea there will be a concert, and the Mellor Church Dramatic Society will give a one-act play. This will be a birthday-party with a birthday-cake, and it is hoped that it will prove to be a real family gathering when old friends of Mellor from near and far can meet again in fellowship as in the days of yore.

On Sunday, October 13th, the Harvest Festival will be continued. In the morning, the Rev. Canon Wrigley, M.A., Vicar of Clitheroe, will preach; whilst in the afternoon, the Rev. Canon John Sinker, M.A., Vicar of Blackburn, will be the preacher. In the evening, the preacher will be the Rev. W. H. B. Yerburgh, M.A., Rector of Bredon, near Tewkesbury. Mr. Yerburgh is a son of a former Rector of Tewkesbury Abbey and a nephew of Mrs. Yerburgh, of Woodfold Park.

The Cathedral Church of Blackburn, St. John's Church, and St. Peter's Church, were the only churches in existence in Blackburn at the time of the Consecration of Mellor Church, on the 15th day of September, 1829, and the Church Council are fortunate in having secured the Vicars of those parishes to preach at the Centenary celebrations.

Collections at all services will be devoted to the Church Restoration Fund, which is over £200 in debt.

KQ-765-921